紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!

HANDS OFF!™

5

KASANE KATSUMOTO

TOKYOPOP®

HANDS OFF!

Volume 5

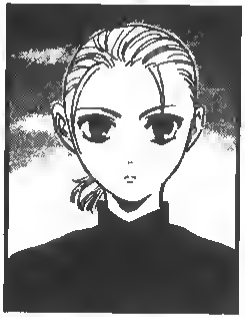
by

Kasane Katsumoto

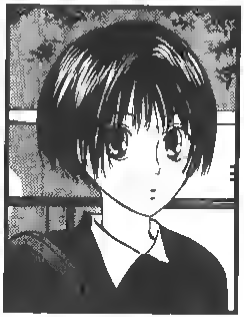
TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

CHARACTERS & STORY

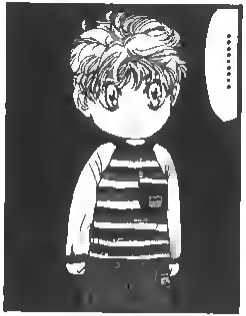


Karen
A wannabe photographer with a fascination for Tatsuki and Kotarou

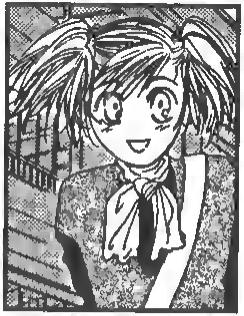


Mio Yoshino
Kotarou's hottie girlfriend, a second-year at Tachibana High

Akira
A weird kid who lives in Kotarou's neighborhood



Chiba
Mio's loyal underclassman She's not a fan of Kotarou and Mio dating



Tatsuki Oohira
Kotarou's cousin. Kotarou unknowingly gave him postcognition during their childhood years since Tatsuki hates the power, he's less than friendly toward Kotarou

Kotarou Oohira
A high school freshman who despises his effeminacy. Kotarou has some sort of special touch-based ESP, but he's still unaware of it. Currently dating Mio.

Yuuto Urushiyama
A classmate to Kotarou and Tatsuki. Friendly but a bit of a goofball. Yuuto can analyze people by reading their emotional auras (and hence is also a psychic). Is still trying to determine exactly what sort of power Tatsuki and Kotarou have.

After fleeing his all-boys school (and its unending harassment) in the country, Kotarou Oohira figured the answer to all his problems was moving to Tokyo. Little did he know that a string of random, horrible, and decidedly odd mishaps awaited him there, as did two psychics he'd rather didn't always save the day: his flirtatious classmate Yuuto and his brooding cousin Tatsuki. But now that Yuuto's shown some depth and Tatsuki's powers have gone a little haywire, what awaits our triumphant trio in the city that never lets up?

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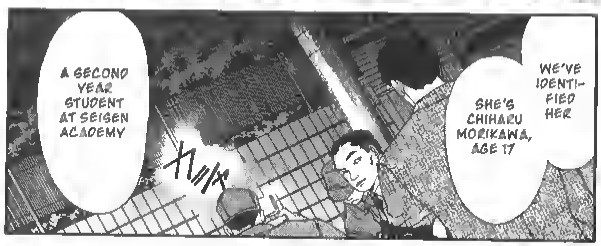
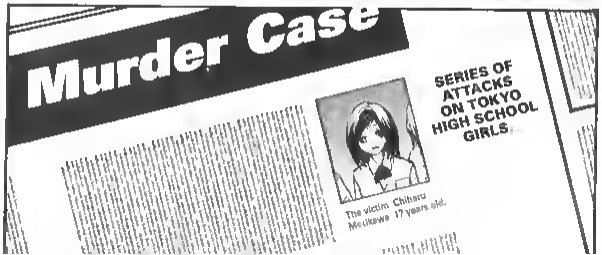
GOD THIS IS THE THIRD ONE
ガチャ


A SECOND YEAR STUDENT AT SEIGEN ACADEMY
SHE'S CHIHARU MORIKAWA, AGE 17
WE'VE IDENTI-FIED HER
ハァハァ


Murder Case
SERIES OF ATTACKS ON TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
The victim Chiharu Morikawa 17 years old.

Enemies

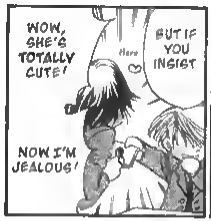
THIS IS TATSUKI OOHIRA.
HE'S MY COUSIN. THE TWO OF US LIVE WITH OUR GRAMPA IN TOKYO
HUH? OH
UH, SORRY
Bitch
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, HE'S A SUPERFICIAL PERVY FLIRT
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, HE'S AN EVIL JERK
BEAT
Hm.
H-HEY WE'RE GETTING A TRANSFER STUDENT TODAY, RIGHT?
GUESS AGAIN, SKEEVY
IS SHE HOT? TELL ME SHE'S HOT!
YOU BETTER BE ON GUARD, YOU HOTTIE!
GET BENT!
YUUTO'S NOT KIDDING, KOTAROU
SEIGEN ACADEMY'S REAL CLOSE-- IT'S CREEPY AS HELL

KOTAROU!
I'M A FANTASTICALLY AWESOME HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN WITH B BALL FINESSE
HERE HE COMES
MORNING, GUYS!
WHAT'S UP? I'M KOTAROU OOHIRA, AGE 15
I WAS PRACTICING WITH MINAMI
YOU COULD'VE SAID SOMETHING! YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!
WHAT TOOK YOU, KID?!
BY THE WAY, THIS IS MY CLASSMATE YUUTO URUSHIYAMA
THERE'S A SERIAL MURDERER IN TOWN WITH A TASTE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, MY LITTLE LAMB! THINK OF YOUR SAFETY!

HAVE A SEAT, KOUTA--
MR. KOUTARI?
HUH?
HE MADE A BEELINE FOR TATSUKI
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
MMM

Undoubtedly and unabashedly MALE
HEYA! I'M KAZUMA KOUTARI, AGE 18
I HAIL FROM THE LOVELY WAKAYAMA
MY HOBBY IS SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH THE FEMALE POPULATION!
That's what this world needs another Yuuto.
Not cool
Great
HELLO, POT? MEET KETTLE
TALK ABOUT NO CLASS
HE'S A PERVY FLIRT!
I'M LOOKING FOR A GIRLFRIEND
Nice 'stache!
I'D LIKE TO GO ON THE OPEN MARKET, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
AND THIS HERE'S MY FIRST TIME IN TOKYO

YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT PRETTY LITTLE KOTAROU
What a waste!
FOR REAL? WHY NOT?
BUT DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME HE'S NOT YOUR RIVAL
NAH--THE KID'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND, REMEMBER?
TATSUKI DOESN'T PLAY THE DATING GAME


WOW, SHE'S TOTALLY CUTE!
Here
BUT IF YOU INSIST
NOW I'M JEALOUS!

I-I COULDN'T
OOOH, GIMME PICTURES!

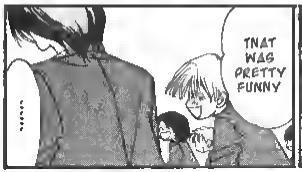
OLDER
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
IS THAT RIGHT?
AND CUTE AS HELL

HUH?

I'M SURE

TATSUKI
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM BEFORE?

NO, SIR!
JUST SIZING UP THE ENEMY, SIR
BUT SINCE HE'S THE BEST-LOOKING GUY IN CLASS, I FIGURE HE'S MY RIVAL
DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?


THAT WAS PRETTY FUNNY
.....

AS YOU SAY, SIR
Hm hm
Hm hm!
SAVE YOUR SOCIAL PREDATION FOR THE BREAK!

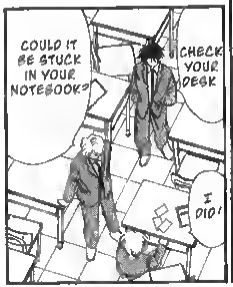
DO YOU GUYS LIVE TOGETHER?
SO TATSUKI'S YOUR COUSIN, IS HE?
WELL, SORTA

BUT WHY?
HIS AURA'S RED AND BLACK
YEAH? HE DOESN'T THINK SO
WHICH MEANS HE'S PISSED WITH TATSUKI

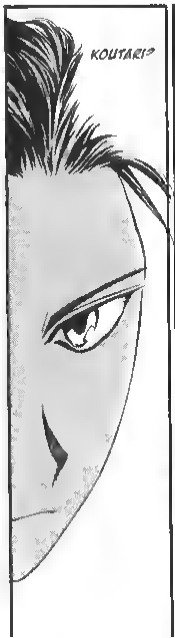
HUH?

HEY
GIVE IT BACK TO HIM

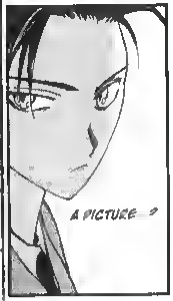
TATSUKI OOHIRA


COULD IT BE STUCK IN YOUR NOTEBOOK?
CHECK YOUR DESK
I DID!

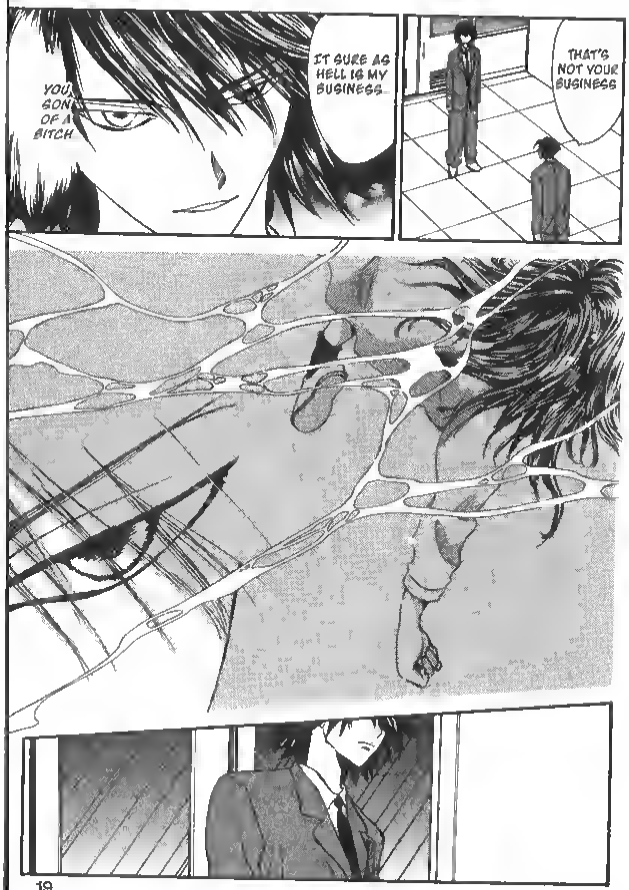
How many bits you have?
ONE OF THE PICTURES?
YEAH
THE BEST ONE!
ONE OF THEM'S MISSING


KOUTARI?

IT'S NOT THERE EITHER!


A PICTURE ?

ACT 15


YOU SON OF A BITCH
IT SURE AS HELL IS MY BUSINESS
THAT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS

!
THE POST-COG HIM-SELF
AM I RIGHT?

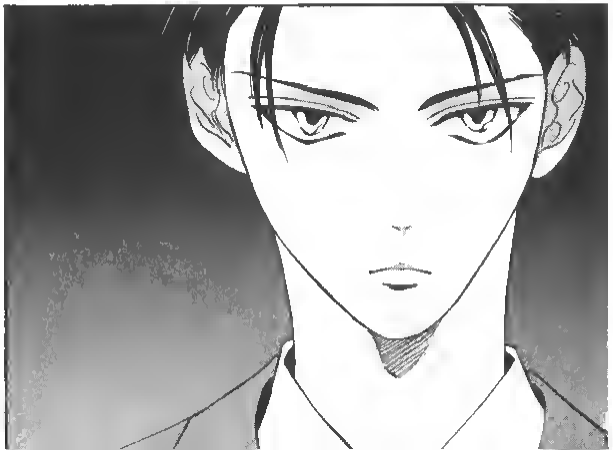
MMM I GUESS THE FREAK-OUT FACTOR RUINED YOUR SOCIAL LIFE
NO FRIENDS, NO LADIES POOR BABY.
WHAT THE HELL?!
HOW DOES HE

ACT 15

HE'S GOT YOUR PICTURE
HI. UM--
GIMME THAT, YOU ASS!
HUH?
No way
IS THIS HOW YOU GET YOUR KICKS NOW?!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
HEY!
HE HATES ME?
WHY?

KAZUMA KOUTARI...
NO.
I'M POSITIVE WE'VE NEVER MET.

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER



しゅん
I'M SORRY, AKIRA! REALLY!
だっ
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER YOU GO HOME EARLY, ANYWAY
てくてく
THE STREETS ARE LEGS SAFE THESE--
I'M REALLY SORRY
WE'LL FIND TIME, I PROMISE
CURSE YOU, STUPID POVERTY!
I MADE HIM CRY!
DAMMIT!

I DON'T NEED TO GIVE MY DOGS A REASON TO PAY ME LEGS!
BIG BRO!
DAMMIT, I'M LATE AGAIN!
たっ
SORRY, BUDDY--I HAVE TO GO TO WORK
OKAY TOMOR-ROW?
UM... I HAVE PRACTICE TOMORROW
HUH?
WANNA PLAY?
AKIRA!

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
EXCUSE ME
UM, MIO?
WHERE'D SHE GO?
KUH?
She's not here
SORRY THAT TOOK SO LONG!

GOOD WORK, EVERYBODY HIT THE SHOWERS!
THE NEXT DAY
HERE'S TO KONAN!
THE BEST DAMN TEAM IN JAPAN!
YOWZA DAMN, OOHIRA!
MIO!
HEY, KOTA-ROU
SOUNDS GOOD!
I'LL BE AT THE GATE
OF COURSE NOT! I MISS YOU TOO!
HANG ON A SEC AND I'LL GO CHANGE
WE ONLY TALK ON THE PHONE THESE DAYS
I MISSED SEEING YOU, SO I THOUGHT I'D DROP IN
Do you mind?

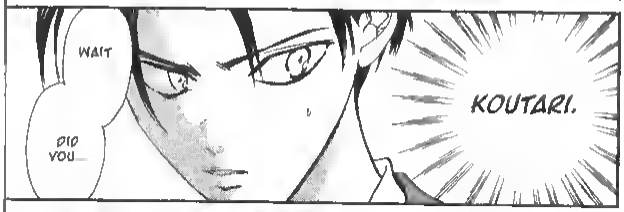
IT DIS-APPEARED!
!
IF I TOUCHED KOTAROU
WHY WOULD
DON'T YOU READ THE PAPER?
Lame!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HER
IT WON'T CON-NECT
NOT AS CUTE AS YOU ♡
HEY, IS HIS GIRLFRIEND CUTE?

JUST TRY HER CELL.
SORYA
You can use mine
HEY
BEEP
THERE'S TATSUKI
YOU LOST YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET KOTAROU AT THE SCHOOL GATE
NO
Wow!
HAVE YOU SEEN MIO, MAN?
HERE?

NO.
I CAN'T TOUCH HIM.
YOU TAKE ONE STEP TOWARD TROUBLE
AND YOU END UP CAUSING MORE
I KNOW YOU
HEY!
I-I DO THE BEST I CAN TATSUKI
THOUGH I GUESS YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT

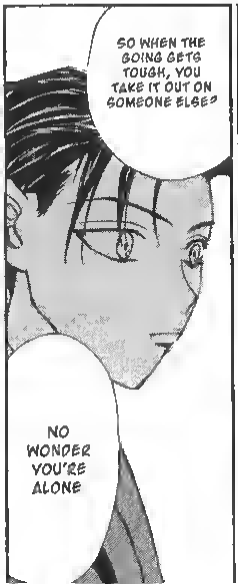
THOSE GIRLS WHO WERE MURDERED, LIKE THE ONE FROM SEIGEN ACADEMY
THEY WERE ALL ATTACKED AROUND THEIR SCHOOLS, Y'KNOW?
ATTACKED AROUND THEIR
I CAN'T
WHY THE HELL SHOULDN'T I?
I'M NOT GONNA JUST SIT HERE IF MIO'S IN TROUBLE!
DON'T
HUH?
I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR HER!
JUST DON'T
TATSUKI!

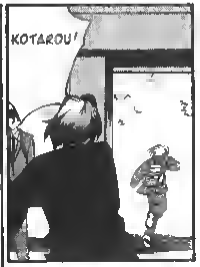
YOU'RE NOT AS COOL AS THEY SAY, HOT SHOT
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE JUST A SPOILED LITTLE BRAT WHO'S HIDING IN HIS SHELL


KOUTARI.
WAIT
DID YOU...

SHIT!
WHERE IS SHE?
YOU MUST'VE SEEN A LITTLE.
COULDN'T SEE SOMETHING?
ERASED PRETTY GOOD, WASN'T IT?

YOU COLD-BLOODED BAS-TARD!
GO SCREW YOURSELF!


SO WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, YOU TAKE IT OUT ON SOMEONE ELSE?
NO WONDER YOU'RE ALONE


KOTAROU!

GOD, THAT WAS HARSH.
USE YOUR BRAIN!

ACT 15

AND I'M SURE SHE WOULDN'T JUST GO HOME...
TRY HER CELL AGAIN
SHE'S STILL NOT HERE!
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL
HUH?
WHAT NOW?

LIKE HELL
LOOK HOW DESPERATE YOU ARE
LEAVE THEM OUT OF THIS

DO I HAVE TO GO OVER THERE?!
HEY! YOU TWO!

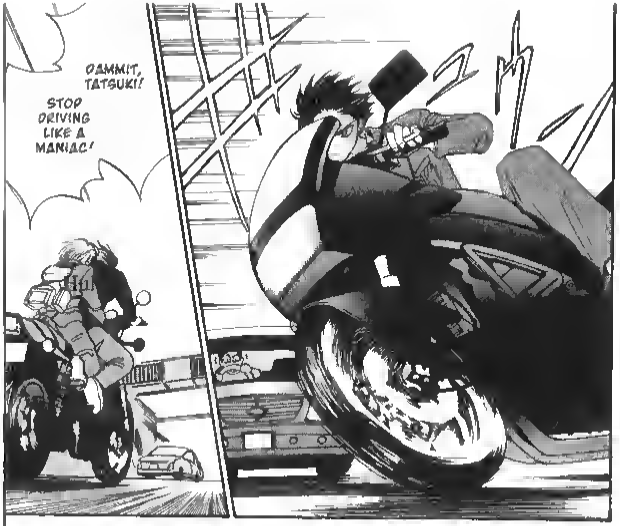
HEY!

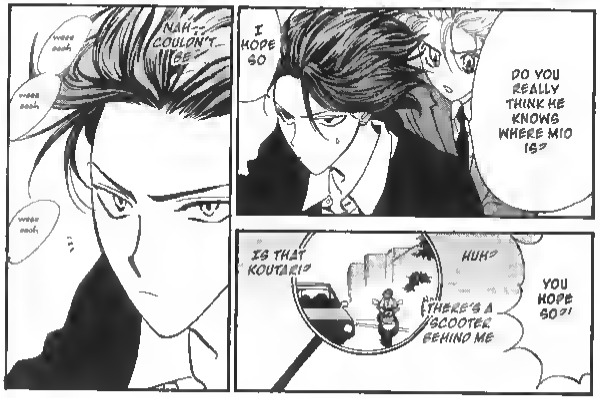
.....
HUH?!
HE GOT SOMETHING!
ON THE BIKE, KOTAROU!
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

Has cute
OH!
UM
SURE
PRETTY PLEASE?
HEY THERE
CAN I BORROW YOUR SCOOTER?
WHA?

SHIT

WITH A SILVER...
CEDRIC?
AN OLDER GUY...
IN A DARK BLUE SUIT

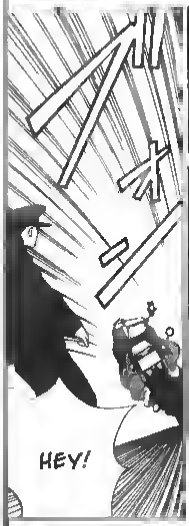

DAMMIT, TATSUKI!
STOP DRIVING LIKE A MANIAC!

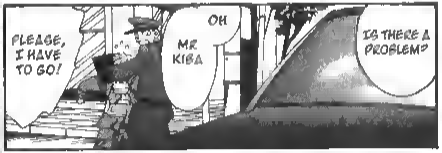

NAH-- COULDN'T BE--
I HOPE SO
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE KNOWS WHERE MIO IS?
IS THAT KOUTARI?
HUH?
THERE'S A SCOOTER BEHIND ME
YOU HOPE SO?!

IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO ERASE THE PAST?
WHO IS HE?

A RIGHT
KOU-TARI DES-PISES ME
WHY?

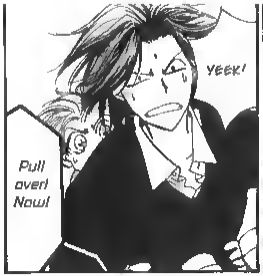
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

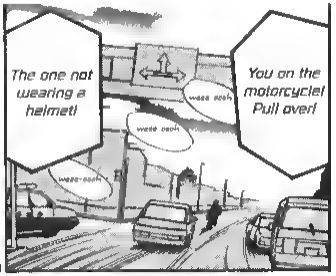

HEY!

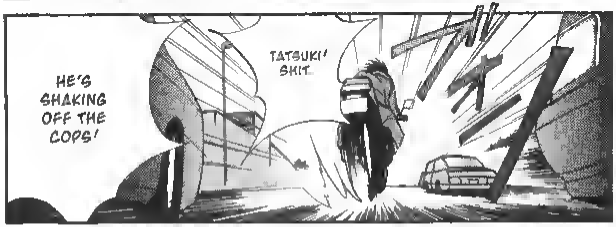

PLEASE, I HAVE TO GO!
OH MR KIBA
IS THERE A PROBLEM?

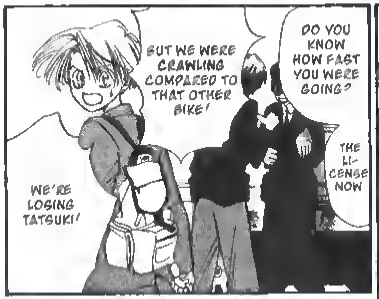
ON THE BIKE, KOTAROU!
!

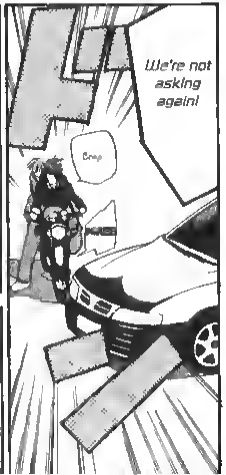
I PROMISE I'LL COME BACK LATER-- JUST PLEASE LET ME GO!

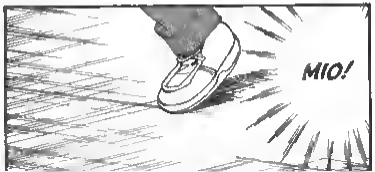

YEEK!
Pull over! Now!


The one not wearing a helmet!
You on the motorcycle! Pull over!
weee oooh
weee oooh
weee oooh


HE'S SHAKING OFF THE COPS!
TATSUKI! SHIT...


BUT WE WERE CRAWLING COMPARED TO THAT OTHER BIKE!
DO YOU KNOW HOW FAST YOU WERE GOING?
THE LI-CENSE NOW
WE'RE LOSING TATSUKI!


We're not asking again!
Crap


MIO!

H-HOLY GOD!
TATSUKI!
THAT THE GUY?
GIRL?
WHERE'S THE GIRL?
DID YOU FIND MIO?!
WHAT... WHAT GIRL?!

THERE
THAT'S HIM
PULL OVER!

!
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH
WHA?
I THINK WE'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY
HOW CAN...
THEN WHERE'S MIO?!

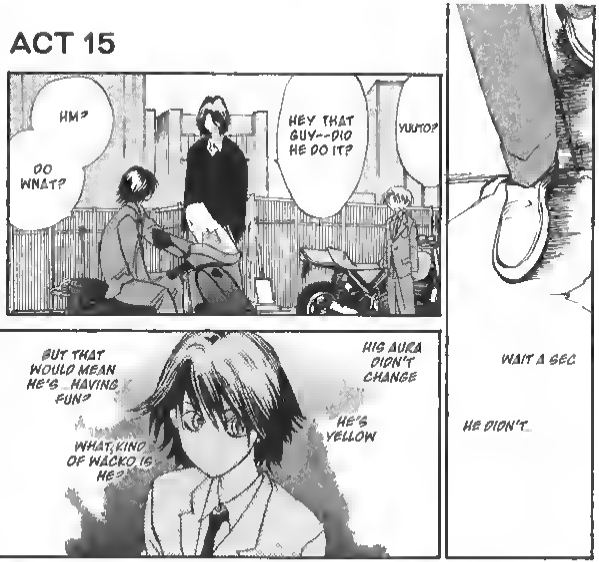
TATSUKI?
WAIT
I DION'T
I DION'T ACTUALLY SEE HER GET IN THE CA...

IT'S THAT GUY, OFFICER
HE KIDNAPPED A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL
RIGHT IN FRONT OF KONAN HIGH!
WHAT?!
I-I DID NO SUCH THING!
YOU
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
AN-OTHER COP!

THERE WERE WITNESSES! ASK ANYBODY!
I JUST ASKED A GIRL FOR DIRECTIONS!

HUH?
THE GUY'S OBVIOUSLY UPSET
BUT HE'S NOT HIDING ANYTHING
HIS AURA IS NOTHING BUT BRIGHT ORANGE
!

ACT 15


HM?
DO WHAT?
HEY THAT GUY--DID HE DO IT?
YUUTO?
WAIT A SEC
HE DIDN'T
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN HE'S HAVING FUN?
WHAT KIND OF WACKO IS HE?
HIS AURA DIDN'T CHANGE
HE'S YELLOW
THEIR BOND IS TOO STRONG, YOU GET ME?
LOOK, PRETTY BOY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT STAY AWAY FROM KOTAROU
YOU'RE JUST GONNA END UP WITH TATSUKI'S FIST DOWN YOUR THROAT

GO AHEAD
UM, SORRY
MY HEART!
I'M REALLY VERY SORRY, SIR!
YEAH
THANK GOD
WE'RE THE HELL OUTTA HERE
WE MADE A MISTAKE CAN WE GO?
!
LITTLE PRICK
KAZU-MA!
HE WAS FOLLOWING US
DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?
WOW, HEY GUYS!
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?
KOUTAR!!

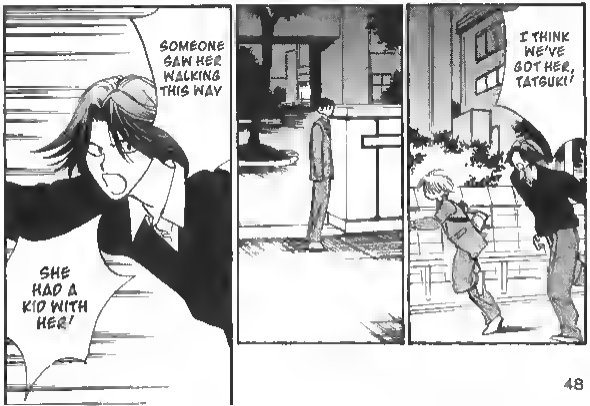
I COULD JUST SEE SOMETHING ELSE TO MISINTERPRET
BUT IT MIGHT NOT HELP
IF I TOUCH HIM...
HE MUST BE FREAKING OUT ABOUT THE MISTAKE
HIS AURA'S GOING ORANGE
THAT'S STRESS, ALL RIGHT
I'LL PROBABLY SEE SOMETHING
DROP IT, KID
LET'S JUST ASK AROUND
ARE YOU IGNORING ME?!
OH THANKS
NO
SHE DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR
ME NEITHER
Shall we?
A GIRL IN THE TACHIBANA UNIFORM?
I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE, SORRY

BOND, HUH...?
...
GOOD, YOU CAME BACK TO SCHOOL
HAVE YOU SEEN MIO?
WE STILL CAN'T FIND HER
キノ
Phew
TATSUKI!

BUT I DIDN'T...
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
A KID?
WHAT KID?
RATTLE

YEAH
WHAT TIME WAS THAT?
I REMEMBER BECAUSE HER UNIFORM WASN'T LOCAL
YOU DID?!
REALLY?!
THIS GIRL?
SURE, I SAW HER

ダッ


SOMEONE SAW HER WALKING THIS WAY
SHE HAD A KID WITH HER!
I THINK WE'VE GOT HER, TATSUKI!

WAS THAT ON PURPOSE?

HANG ON-- LOOK IN THE PARK!
IT MIGHT BE FASTER TO GO TO THE POLICE STATION
WHO KNOWS?
I WONDER WHO THE KID WAS
MAYBE SHE WALKED HOME A LOST TODDLER
WHA?!

ALL I SAW...

WAS A MAN WHO ASKED DIRECTIONS
A MAN AND A CAR

AKIRA TOLD ME AT THE SCHOOL GATE
HE SAID YOU WANTED ME TO WAIT IN THE PARK BECAUSE YOU'D BE AWHILE
BUT WHY?
HOLD ON
YOU WAITED HERE?
HE SAID THAT?!
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
AKIRA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LIED TO HER LIKE THAT!
だっ
IS THAT BAD?
ぱっ
MIO!
B-B-BUT...
WHY'RE YOU WITH AKIRA?!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOREVER!
GOD, KOTAROU!

ACT 15

TATSUKI
CRIDES THAT BRAT'S A REAL HANDFUL

WHAT THE HELL?
WE FOUND MIO. NOBODY GOT KIDNAPPED-- IT'S A HAPPY ENDING!
WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY BE AFRAID OF?
HIGAUCHI'S DARK PURPLE

I'M FINE
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

-BUT YOU STILL GO ON DATES AND STUFF!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
B-BECAUSE YOU NEVER PLAY WITH ME ANYMORE!
YOU SAID YOU'RE TOO BUSY.

SNIF!
YOU'RE RIGHT I'M SORRY
SNIF!
OH, MAN
SNIFF
MM..
SNIF!
SNIFF
THEN MAYBE THE THREE OF US SHOULD PLAY BASKETBALL, HM?

NO WAY...
!
UM TATSUKI?

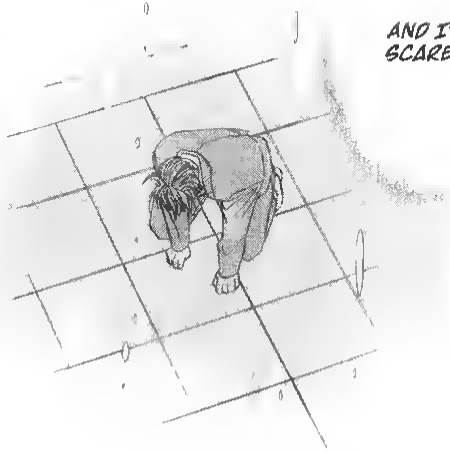
AND YOU SENT US ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE AFTER NOTHING!
LEAVE YOU OUT? I WAS TAKING CARING OF THINGS WHEN YOU JUMPED IN!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT?!
NEXT TIME, LEAVE ME OUT OF THE BABY-SITTING
KIOSAKU
Hn
YOU IDIOT!
Don't say that
HUH?

WHICH ONE IS IT...?
IS THAT HEALING? OR BEING HEALED, MAYBE?
...THERE IT IS AGAIN.
THAT WHITE AURA AROUND THE TWO OF THEM.

ACT 15
WHOOPDEE-DOO.
SO THEY'RE "BONDED," HUH?
"FINE. I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW HIM.
LIKE I CARE.
IT'S TIME HE REALIZED
WHAT A WEAKLING HE IS!
IF YOU ASK ME, BONDS JUST HOLD YOU BACK.
59

!
LET GO.
I... I THOUGHT HE WAS CRYING
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
F-FINE
HUNH
58

HE CAN JUST SCREW WITH ME AGAIN


AND I'M SCARED.

IT JUST WASTED OUR TIME
I SHOULDN'T HAVE CHASED THAT CAR

HE INTENTIONALLY DIDN'T ERASE THE PAST OF THAT MAN
KOUTARI SCREWED WITH ME

GOO, THEN HE
IF HE HAS THAT MUCH CONTROL, THEN HE

AN END TO THE FEAR
SUSPECT
IS 23 YEARS OLD AND UNEMP
THE NEXT MORNING
THE PAPER SAID A SUSPECT WAS ARRESTED FOR THE SERIAL GIRL MURDERS
TOO BAD WE NEVER GET A HAPPY ENDING.
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
OWNING A MOTORCYCLE IS YOUR BUSINESS
BUT I WILL NOT TOLERATE STUDENTS FROM THIS SCHOOL RECKLESSLY BREAKING TRAFFIC LAWS!
SOMEBODY SAW HIM TRYING TO GRAB A GIRL FROM A HIGH SCHOOL IN MEGURO
HE WAS ACTUALLY CAUGHT DURING OUR SEARCH FOR MIO
Didja see the news?
Yup.
Sick, isn't it?
I HOPE THEY THROW AWAY THE KEY!
Who the hell called in the school?
WE'LL LET YOU OFF WITHOUT A SUSPENSION THIS TIME
JUST BE AWARE THAT YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS YOUNG ADULTS, AND YOU HAVE TO TAKE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY
.....
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...
YOU'RE USUALLY SUCH AN EXCELLENT STUDENT
TATSUKI, I'M SURPRISED ABOUT YOU ESPECIALLY
IT'S DISHEARTENING TO SEE YOUR NAME ON A DELINQUENT LIST
HEY, KOTA-ROU! I WAS LOOKIN' FOR YA
SORRY AGAIN, SIR

HE MAY BE SMILING
BUT HIS AURA'S COMPLETELY RED
You're sure weird cousin!
CAREFUL, KOTAROU
KOUTARI'S TROUBLE
I guess.

AND TATSUKI...
KOUTARI HATES TATSUKI

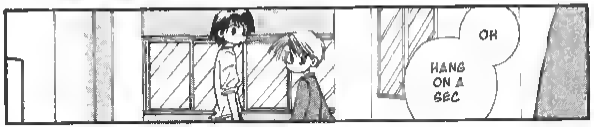
WELL...
TATSUKI'S AFRAID

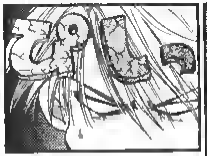
ACT 15 END

KOUTARI!
OOOH, COUNT ME IN!

DO YOU WANNA PLAY SOME 3-ON-3?
WE NEED ANOTHER GUY

Tap


OH
HANG ON A SEC



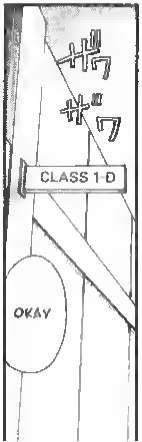
HEH HEH...
I'M DONE!

TATSUKI... ABOUT YESTERDAY UM, I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN WHAT I SAID, OKAY?
SOMETIMES I JUST RANT ABOUT GARBAGE WHEN I'M MAD, Y'KNOW?
I DO KNOW

ACT 16

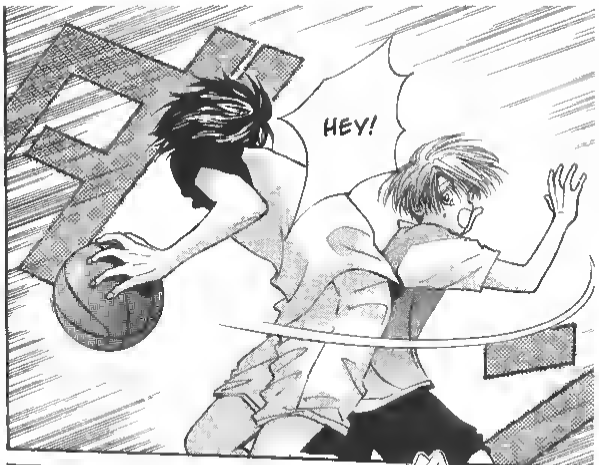
ACT 16

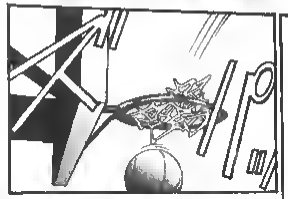
WERE YOU ON A TEAM AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL?
NAH
YOU'VE GOTTA JOIN KONAN'S!
I'M TOO LAZY SORRY!
Hee.
YOU KICK ASS AT THIS, KAZUMA!
WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO PLAY?

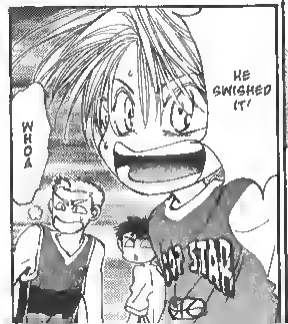

CLASS 1-D
OKAY

I'VE GOT ANOTHER ABILITY THAT'S WAY COOLER
BUT Y'KNOW, KOTAROU

WHAT IS IT?
REALLY?


HEY!



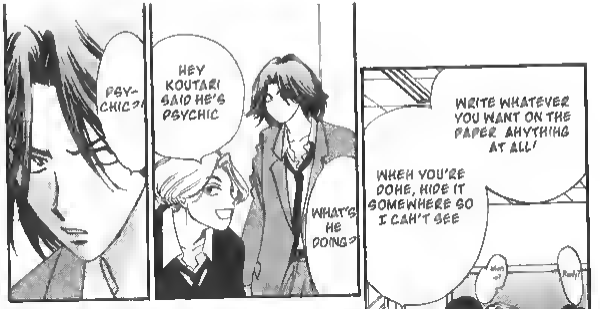

WHOA
HE SWISHED IT!

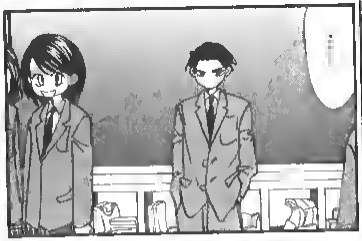
NOT AGAIN!

AND KOTAROU, YOU GOT ON MY CASE ABOUT THE JOCK THING AGAIN
AIZAWA DREW TWO PANDAS

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
I KNOW HE DIDN'T SEE THIS!
NO WAY!

IT'S NO TRICK JUST ASK HIM
HE CAN DO THE EXACT SAME THING
ARE YOU REALLY PSYCHIC?
THAT'S AWESOME!
NUH-UH!
IT'S GOTTA BE A TRICK
THIS IS SO WEIRD
HOW DID HE DO THAT?


PSY-CHIC?
HEY KOUTARI SAID HE'S PSYCHIC
WHAT'S HE DOING?
WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT ON THE PAPER ANYTHING AT ALL!
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, HIDE IT SOMEWHERE SO I CAN'T SEE

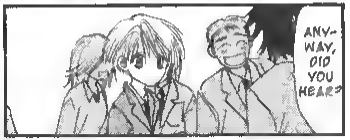


Kazuma should join the basketball team!
WE DID IT
GOOD
WATCH THIS

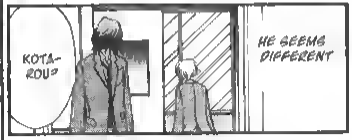
ACT 16

TATSUKI'S NOT GONNA PLAY ALONG, KAZUMA
GOOD JOB!
OOH, YOU MADE HIM MAD
HA HA!
HEE HEE!
HA HA!
MAYBE KAZUMA STILL THINKS TATSUKI'S HIS RIVAL!
BUT HE REALLY CAN--
LEAVE ME ALONE

TATSU-KI!
WHAT'S UP?
ARE YOU
UM, OKAY?

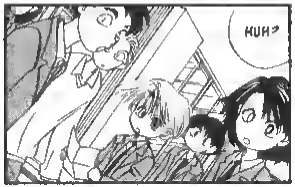

ANY-WAY, DID YOU HEAR?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TATSUKI?
HUH?


KOTA-ROU?
HE SEEMS DIFFERENT

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TATSUKI?

WHA


HUH?

MAYBE IT'S A BLUFF

IS THAT WHY TATSUKI'S AFRAID OF HIM?!

WAIT!
HE KNOWS TATSUKI'S POWER?!

ACT.16

HA HA HA!
Yeah?
No way

DAMMIT, KOUTARI.

THERE IT IS AGAIN
I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM
BUT WHAT COULD?

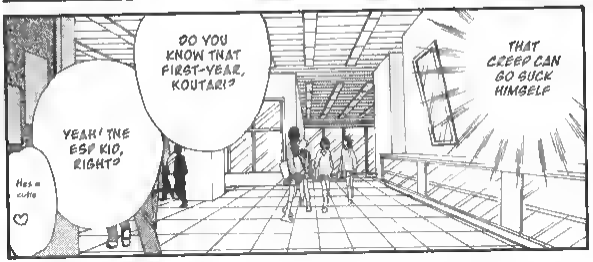
THAT YOU AND TATSUKI DON'T GET ALONG, FAMILY OR NO
Huh.
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE
RUMORS?

ふんふんふん
NO! HELL NO!
HE'S NOT WORTH WORRYING ABOUT-- HE'LL JUST GIVE ME LIP!

EASY, KID!
STUPID ASSWIPE!
THE WALL'S INNO-CENT!

ARGH!

YOU GET TOO CLOSE
AND I WON'T BE


DO YOU KNOW THAT FIRST-YEAR, KOUTARI?
YEAH! THE ESP KID, RIGHT?
He's a cutie ♡
THAT CREEP CAN GO SUCK HIMSELF

THAT'S WHAT KOUTARI SAID
OONIZA
The last one
NO WAY! THE BROODY GUY?

HE CAN SEE THROUGH THINGS
YUP AND I HEARD THERE'S ANOTHER PSYCNIC TOO
FOR REAL?

DON'T GET ALONG?
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
HE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME, FOR SOME REASON
IS THAT RIGHT?
WHY, PRAY TELL, DO YOU DIRECT YOUR ANGST AT YOUR ADORABLE COUSIN?
WHAT A LITTLE BITCH YOU ARE
KOUTARI
HE THINKS YOU HATE HIM, Y'KNOW.
I JUST DON'T GET YOU.

NEITHER
I THINK YOU'RE JUST CYNICAL
AND I THINK YOU LOVE THE LITTLE TYKE
SO? DO YOU LOVE HIM, OR HATE HIM?
MOVE
SHIT
WHAT NOW?
NOW MOVE
.....

KOUTARI?
Check it out
!
I'LL FIND IT FOR YOU
ポン
KAZU-MA!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
HE'S A PSYCHIC
HE CAN HELP YOU OUT
BULL-SHIT
A PSY-CHIC?!
YOU CAN REALLY SEE STUFF?
HEY!
Smugh
I'M AFRAID I SEE NOTHING.

OK!
SURE
ゴソ...
HUH?
THE AWAY-GAME COSTS FROM THE FIRST-YEARS
WE NEED THE MONEY, SHORTY
OOKIKA?
WHADDYA MEAN, "WHERE'D IT GO?!"
WHERE'D IT GO?
uh, eh
What is this?
STEAL?
I-I'M SORRY! BUT I SWEAR IT WAS IN HERE!
In a blue case
DID ONE OF YOUR SNOT-NOSED CLASSMATES STEAL IT?!
WATCHIN' THAT MONEY WAS YOUR JOB!
カリ
WE'RE NOT FOOLIN' AROUND, KID!

WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?
OK
IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK?
DEAR GOD
HE KNOWS THAT...
HE KNOWS

HEY TATSU-KI
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK?

KOUTARI DID IT?
HE PUT IT IN HIS DESK

ACT 16

WHERE D'YA THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?!
!
WHA?!
FIND IT YOURSELF
HEY
ONE OF YOU'D BETTER FIND IT NOW.

HEY!
HIS AURA'S RED
NOT THAT I BLAME HIM
IS HE PISSED OFF NOW?

REALLY?
THERE IT IS
D-DID YOU SEE IT?
ZZZA
OOHIRA HERE'LL JUST PAY US BACK!
FORGET IT!
I GUESS I CAN TRY AGAIN
Nnn
WHAT O!

I KNOW YOU DO
KAZUMA-KUN!
Kazuma kun? Just what are you playing
YOU'RE FULL OF SHIT, TATSUKI
BUT YOU LOVE, HATE, AND CONSTANTLY THINK ABOUT THE KID
YOU DON'T CONNECT WITH ANYONE
LOOK IT ME, I'M TATSUKI!
"AND I DON'T LOVE OR HATE KOTAROU!"

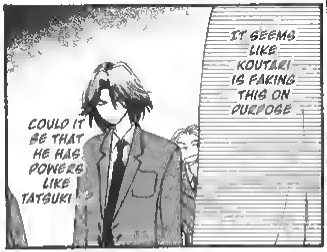
RIGHT
AND I BET KOTAROU'S THE LAST PERSON YOU HOPE FINDS OUT ABOUT YOUR POWER
THAT'D GET YOUR DIRTY FEELINGS ALL OVER HIM, RIGHT?

ACT 16

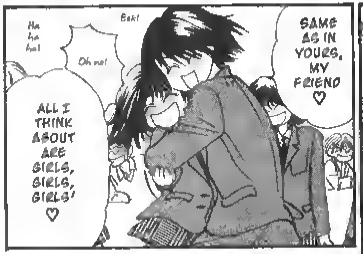
KOTAROU'S THE REASON I'M LIKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE
WHY SHOULD I CARE!!
IF HE FINDS OUT AND IT HURTS HIM?

WHAT THE HELL IS MY PROBLEM?

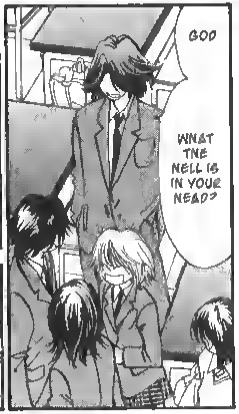
YOU'RE MEAT
YOU GET THIS UP?
THE MAN'S A FRAUD!
IT WAS IN YOUR OWN DESK!
I-I DIDN'T! I SWEAR!
DID YOU GET THAT UP?


IT SEEMS LIKE KOUTARI IS FAKING THIS ON PURPOSE
COULD IT BE THAT HE HAS POWERS LIKE TATSUKI

OH MY GOD!
HERE YOU GO!
NO WAY!

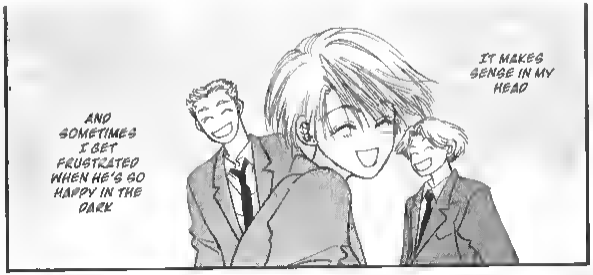

Ha ha ha!
Eek!
Oh no!
SAME AS IN YOURS, MY FRIEND ♡
ALL I THINK ABOUT ARE GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS! ♡

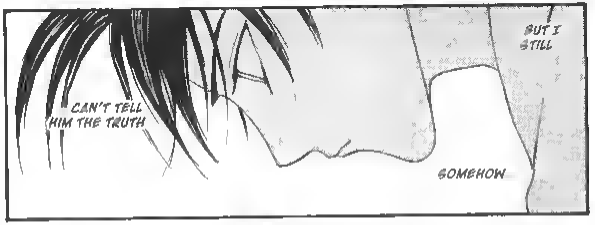
THE MAN'S A NUTCASE
Erg
I CAN SEE WHY TATSUKI'S NOT A FAN.


GOD
WHAT THE HELL IS IN YOUR HEAD?

WHO THE HELL IS HE?
AND WHY DOES HE HATE ME SO MUCH?
HE WANTS ME TO SUFFER

WHAT...
...SHOULD I DO?


AND SOMETIMES I GET FRUSTRATED WHEN HE'S SO HAPPY IN THE DARK
IT MAKES SENSE IN MY HEAD


CAN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH
BUT I STILL
SOMEHOW

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KOUTARI KNOWS
HE'S JUST TRYING TO RATTLE ME
BUT HE'S AWARE I DON'T WANT KOTAROU FINDING OUT

I CAN'T HURT KOTAROU

Hm
!
BATH TIME! ♪
I JUST...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...
MAN...
STILL?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM
TA--
I'LL LEAVE HIM ALONE.
FORGET IT
AND I WON'T BE
YOU GET TOO CLOSE...
Sigh

ACT 16

YEAH HE'S SICK, RIGHT?
NO
HOW'S TATSUKI DOING, GRAMPA?
TATSU-KI?
I'M HOME
OH, HE DIDN'T TELL YOU?
MY PARENTS' HOUSE?!
HE LEFT HOME AROUND NOON
SAID HE WAS GOING TO TAKASHI'S PLACE
HELLO, MOM?
IT'S ME
DID TATSUKI STOP BY TODAY?
WHY WOULD HE BE THERE?

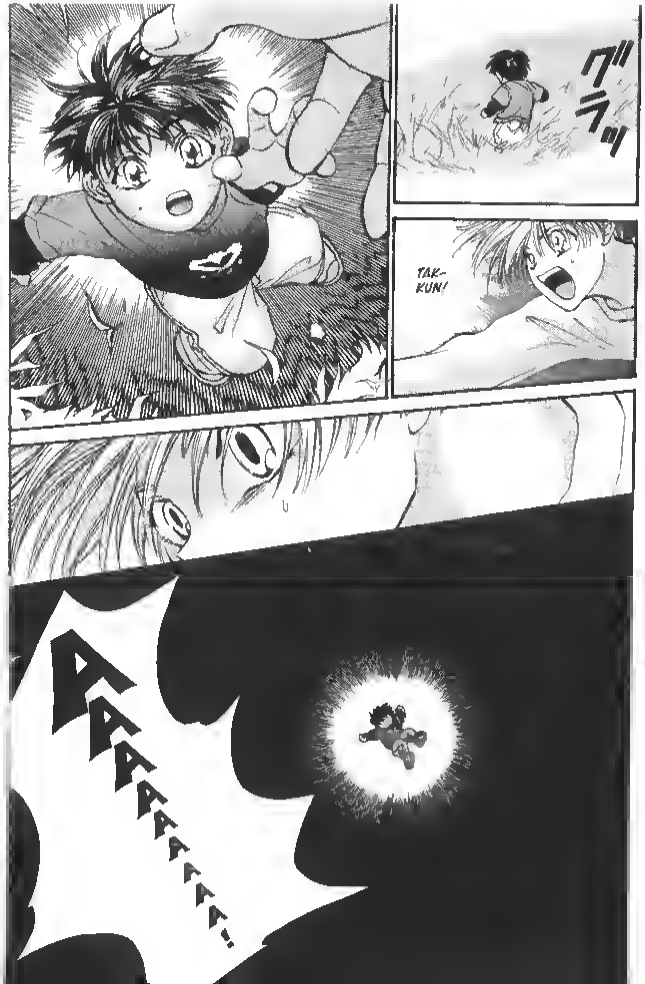
ALL RISE
WHERE'S TATSUKI?
HE'S NOT USUALLY LATE
YEAH
WEIRD
KOUTARI'S GOING YELLOW
SO YOU'RE HAPPY, TATSUKI'S GONE?
GET BENT, YOU AGE
WAIT!
A COLD?!
TATSUKI OOHIRA'S OUT WITH A COLD
WA HA HA HA!
AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW? OUCH
HE'S YOUR HOUSEMATE, KOTAROU
B-BUT I--

GOD, HIS ROOM'S CLEAN
NOTHING LIKE MINE
He's definitely a neat freak
CREEK
THEN WHERE'D HE GO?
IT'S TOO ORGANIZED
IT'S LIKE
IT'S TOO NEAT
SOMEHOW
BUT

BYE
OH
UM, THANKS ANYWAY
HE DIDN'T?!
EH, HE PROBABLY JUST DIDN'T WANT ME TO WORRY
MOM SAID HE DIDN'T SHOW
WHY WOULD HE LIE ABOUT THAT?
I'M SURE HE'S WITH FRIENDS. EVERY TEENAGE BOY WANTS TO SNEAK IN AN OVERNIGHT ONCE IN A WHILE
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM
I SHOULD'VE ASKED
I MEAN, WHO CARES IF HE WOULD'VE SNAPPED AT ME?
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED?
THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN TOO WEIRD
I COULD TELL SOMETHING WAS WRONG
SLEEP!
がば
ERGH! I'M THINKING TOO MUCH
I'VE GOT A GAME TOMORROW!
I HAVE TO SLEEP!

...NOBODY EVER LIVED HERE.
TRICK
TRICK
TRICK
TRICK
ごろん
SATURDAY PRACTICE GAME. MEET AT THE SCHOOL GATE AT 9 AM!
TRICK
TRICK

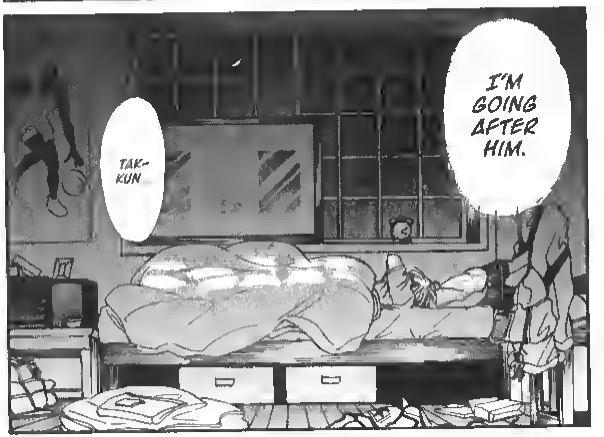

グラッ
TAK-KUN!
AAAAAAAA...

TATSUKI?
GRAMPA'S WORRIED LET'S GO--
THERE YOU ARE!
HH
HEY!
WAIT!
DON'T GO THAT WAY!
TAK-KUN?!

ACT 17
Stop! Yagi!

I-I CAN'T DO THIS.

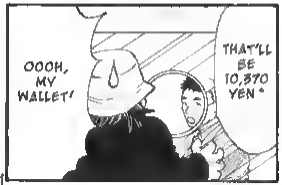
TICK.
TICK.
TICK.
TICK.


TAK-KUN
I'M GOING AFTER HIM.

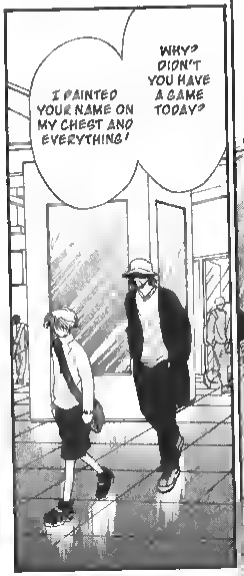
JR 全線
BULLET TRAIN
One to Niigata please.
UM, KOTAROU?
I ALREADY CALLED MIO
AND THE CAPTAIN AND MANAGER

HIS AURA'S BLUE-GREEN
HE'S ANXIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING
GOD, WHAT NOW?

I WANNA PLAY
BELIEVE ME, I WANNA PLAY BUT I CAN'T


OOOH, MY WALLET!
THAT'LL BE 10,370 YEN *

UM, I'LL HAVE WHAT HE HAD!
WAIT A SEC!
SEE YA

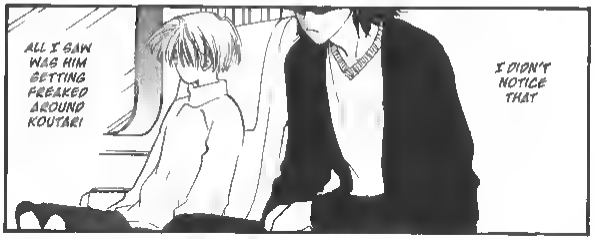

I PAINTED YOUR NAME ON MY CHEST AND EVERYTHING!
WHY? DIDN'T YOU HAVE A GAME TODAY?

スタスタ
AND WHAT ABOUT MIO? SHE WAS GOING TOO!

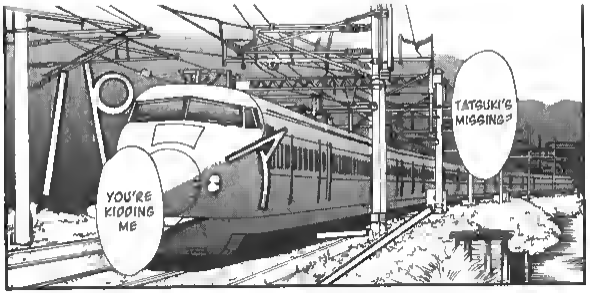
YOU'RE GOING HOME?

Approx $97 US

WRONG?
WAIT A SEC--WAS HE HURT OR SOMETHING?
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?
I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO DITCH LIKE THIS


ALL I SAW WAS HIM GETTING FREAKED AROUND KOUTARI
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT

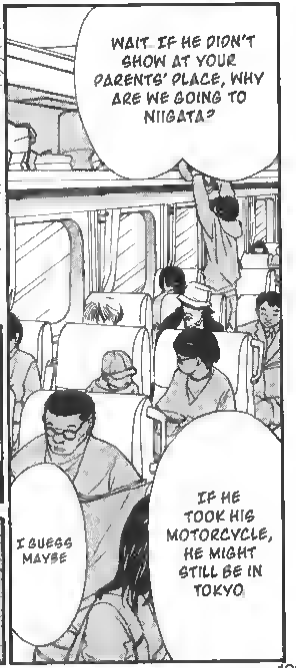
WHAT? NOW YOU HAVE TO TELL ME!
FORGET IT, REALLY
ER NEVER MIND
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE NICE IF I TOLD HIM THAT, RIGHT? RIGHT
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T
KOTA-ROU
HM?


YOU'RE KIDDING ME
TATSUKI'S MISSING?

BUT

HE JUST WANTS ME TO CHECK
GRAMPA'S REALLY WORRIED

GRAMPA'S WORRIED RIGHT


WAIT. IF HE DIDN'T SHOW AT YOUR PARENTS' PLACE, WHY ARE WE GOING TO NIIGATA?
I GUESS MAYBE
IF HE TOOK HIS MOTORCYCLE, HE MIGHT STILL BE IN TOKYO

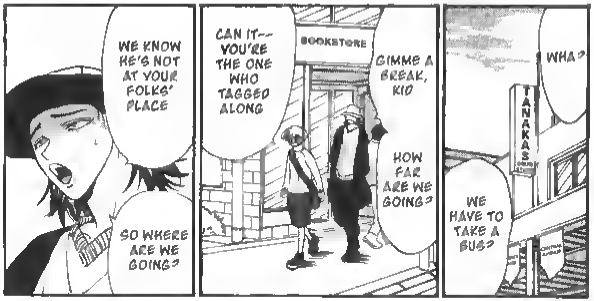
I'M BORED OUT OF MY SKULL...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING TO DO IN THIS TOWN THAT ISN'T LAME?
TODAY SUCKS
ECHIGO HOLIDAY TICKET
JR HIGASHI NIHON. INAKA STATION.
DAMMIT
JOIN THE CLUB, MAN!
WAY TO SUCK
AH, SHE'S ALREADY GOT A DUDE WITH HER
Damn
HEY! ♡
HOTTIE AT 9 O'CLOCK!
WHA?
HUH?
HOLY SHIT!
H-HANG ON THAT'S NOT
NO WAY! WHERE?!
SHIT!

IT WAS ALL BOYS, RIGHT?
I'D RATHER HEAR ABOUT YOUR OLD SCHOOL

PLEASE TELL ME YOU WERE KIDDING
YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED IT THERE

HE TURNED BLUE-PURPLE
WHY AM I SO GOOD AT PUTTING MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH?!
BUT WHAT'S HE SAD ABOUT?
CRAP!
IT WAS OKAY
THAT'S, LIKE, THE THIRD CIRCLE OF HELL!
A SCHOOL OF ONLY BOYS, EW!
shudder at the thought
NOTHING SPECIAL, REALLY
HUH?

ACT 17


WE KNOW HE'S NOT AT YOUR FOLKS' PLACE
SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
CAN IT-- YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAGGED ALONG
BOOKSTORE
GIMME A BREAK, KID
HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?
WHA?
TANAKA'S
WE HAVE TO TAKE A BUS?

IT'S JUST AN IDEA...
...BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY

!
KOTA, BABY! ♡
LAST NIGHT
I SAW HIM STANDING IN A FIELD IN MY DREAM
I REMEMBER THAT PLACE

THAT'S KOTAROU!
WA HA HA HA!
AND HE GOT HIMSELF A BOYFRIEND!
HA HA HA HA!

LET'S PLAY AGAIN-- FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE
SOME-THING TO DO! WOO!
Heh.

OH, MAN!
LOOKIT THAT FACE. I STILL CAN'T GET OVER IT!

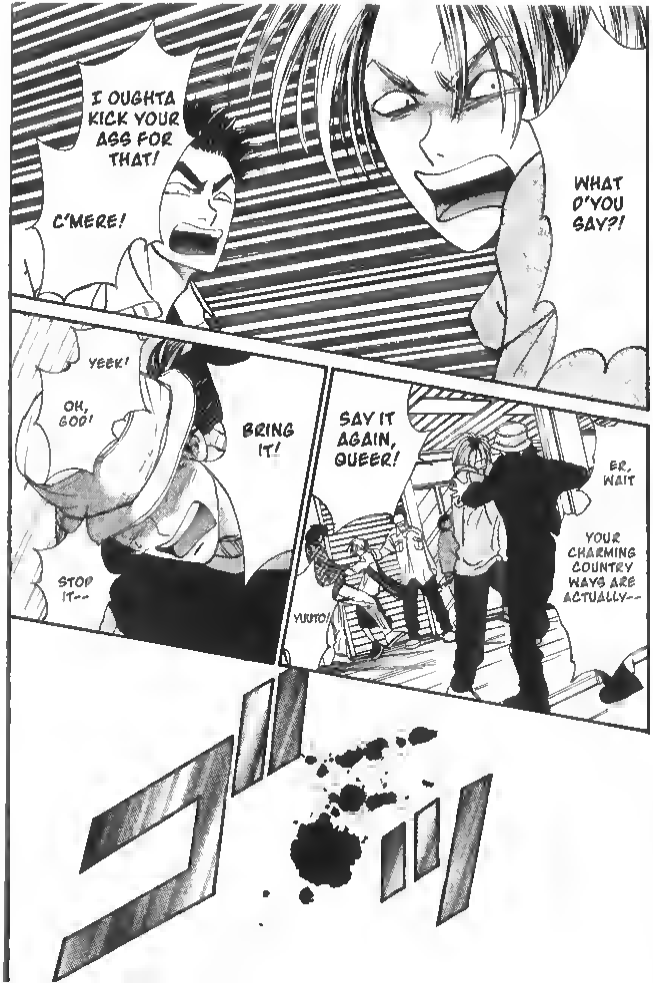
ARE THOSE HIS OLD CLASSMATES?
CUT THAT OUT!
STOP IT!
LEMME GO!
BUT WE WANTED TO HANG OUT, SWEETHEART!
WE'VE BEEN LONELY SINCE WE LOST OUR MISS INAKA DAIICHI HIGH!

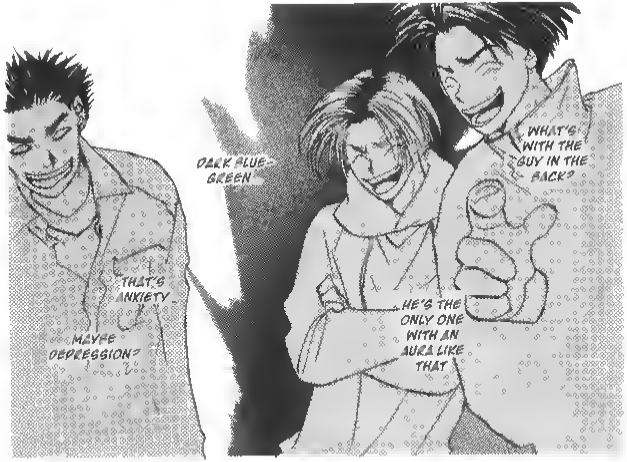
WHOA!
I SAID, KNOCK IT OFF!

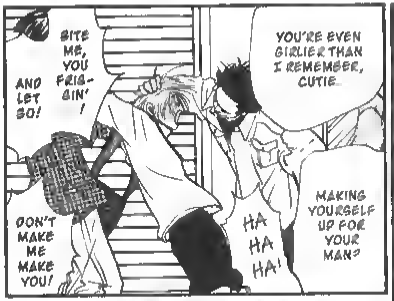
HUH?
You are so juvenile!
WHATEVER, ASSHOLES!
WATCH IT, THE BOYTOY'S MAD!

!!
KEEEY!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOU LOOK OUTTA THIS WORLD!

WAIT A SEC!
INTRODUCE US
THIS YOUR TOKYO KUNK?
MAN, HE'S HOT
JUST IGNORE THEM
WE'RE LEAVING!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE GUYS?


I OUGHTA KICK YOUR ASS FOR THAT!
C'MERE!
WHAT D'YOU SAY?!
YEEK!
OH, GOD!
BRING IT!
SAY IT AGAIN, QUEER!
ER, WAIT
YOUR CHARMING COUNTRY WAYS ARE ACTUALLY--
STOP IT--
YUKITO!


DARK BLUE-GREEN...
WHAT'S WITH THE GUY IN THE BACK?
THAT'S ANXIETY
MAYBE DEPRESSION?
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH AN AURA LIKE THAT


BITE ME, YOU FRIG-GIN'!
AND LET GO!
YOU'RE EVEN GIRLIER THAN I REMEMBER, CUTIE...
DON'T MAKE ME MAKE YOU!
HA HA HA!
MAKING YOURSELF UP FOR YOUR MAN?

STEP ASIDE, TOUGH GUY

IS THIS THE ONLY WAY YOU GET YOUR KICKS AROUND HERE?!
YOU GOD-DAMN BACK-WATER PUNKS!

DAMMIT!
SSWISSS
!
Nya nya!
I'M FINE
YOU OKAY, SONO?
WHAT A LOSER
RRGH!
SCREW THAT GUY!
HUH?!
RUH, YUUTO!
SHIT
Whomp
IT ACTUALLY LANDED
GET BACK HERE!
HEY!
SONO!

GOODAMMIT!
WHY THE HELL DID I SUBJECT MYSELF TO THIS AGAIN?!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
I'M JUST CHASING AFTER AN IMAGE IN A DREAM!

Next stop Higashi Elementary
FOO
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
KOYA-KOU
WERE THOSE GUYS--

MESSING WITH A GUY'S MASCULINITY ISN'T COOL
PAT
I KNOW YOU'RE MAD, KIO
HE'S RED

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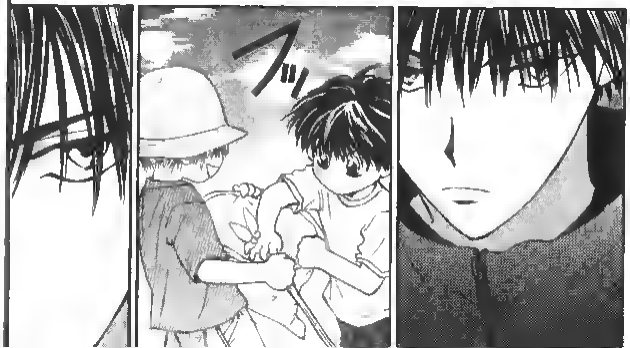
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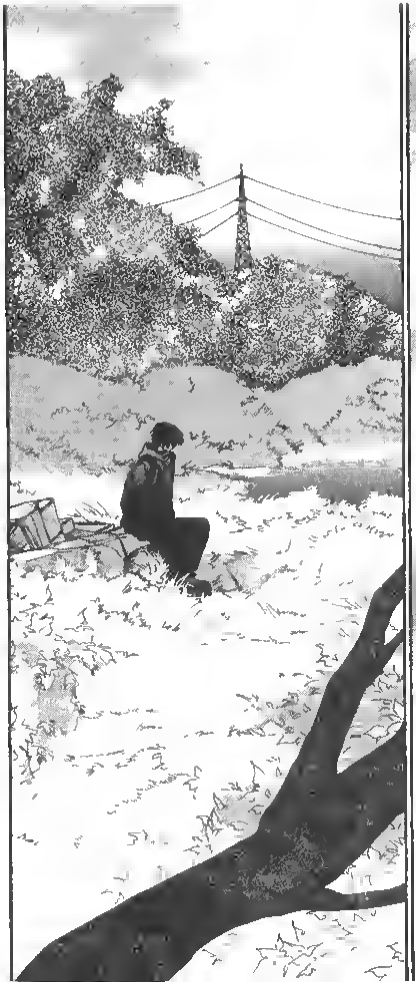
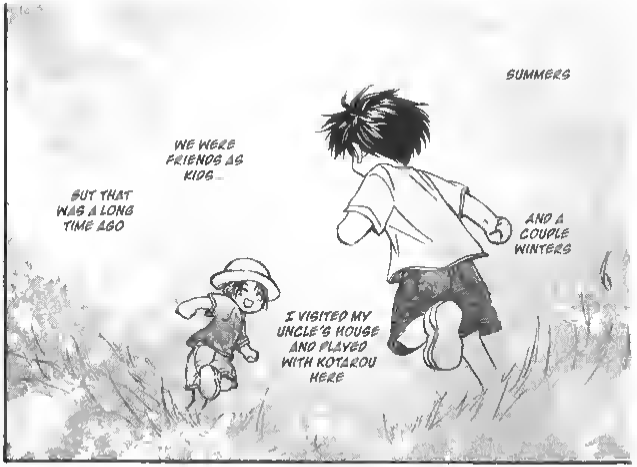
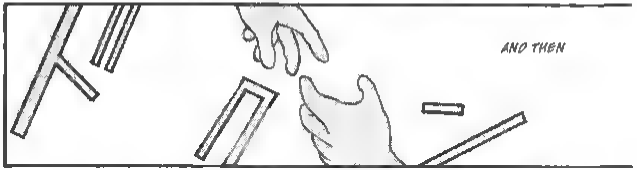
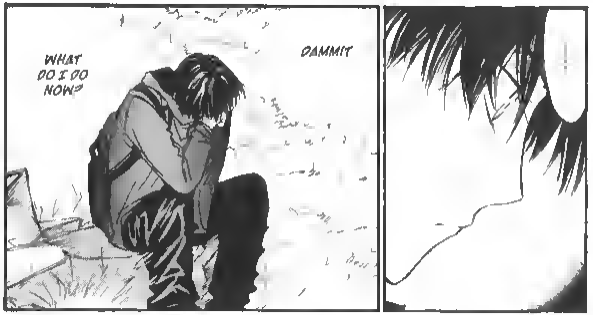



SUMMERS
WE WERE FRIENDS AS KIDS...
BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
AND A COUPLE WINTERS
I VISITED MY UNCLE'S HOUSE AND PLAYED WITH KOTAROU HERE


AND THEN


WHAT DO I DO NOW?
DAMMIT

I CAN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH...
KOTAROU STARTED THIS WHOLE MESS
WHICH MEANS KOUTARI'S GOT ME WRAPPED AROUND HIS LITTLE FINGER

I'M NOT GONNA LIVE LIKE THAT
SCREW IT

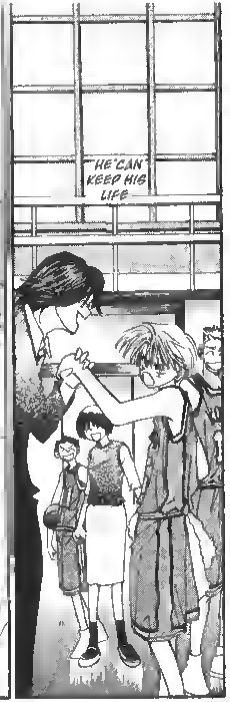
I CAN'T STAY HUNG UP ON HIM LIKE THIS
I'M GETTING AWAY FROM KOTAROU

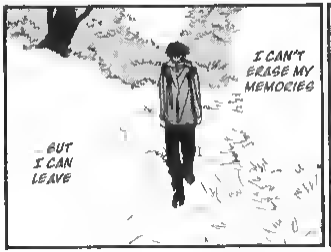
THAT'S ALL
WE'LL JUST LEAD OUR SEPARATE LIVES

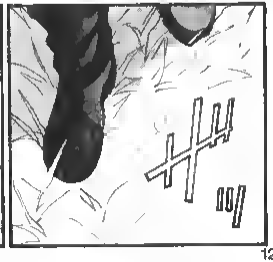
TAK-KUN!

SEPARATE

I'LL GO
I'LL GO SOMEWHERE WHERE KOTAROU'S NOT
KOUTARI CAN CHASE ME ALL HE WANTS


HE CAN KEEP HIS LIFE


I CAN'T ERASE MY MEMORIES
BUT I CAN LEAVE

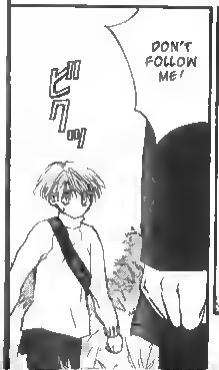


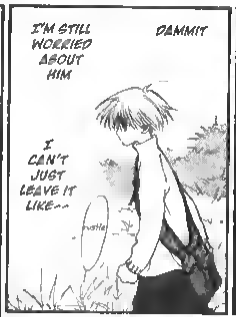
KOTAROU?
TATSUKI! YOU REALLY WERE HERE!
THANK GOD WE FOUND YOU!
WHY'S HE...

HUH?!

WHY NOW?

I JUST MADE UP MY MIND TO LEAVE YOU
WHY APPEAR NOW OF ALL TIMES?


DON'T FOLLOW ME!
ピリリ


I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT HIM
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT LIKE--
DAMMIT

LOOK--THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT SOME SPACE, JUST CALL US FIRST!

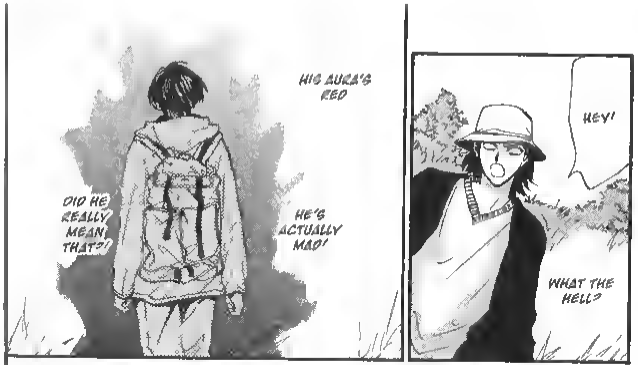
I OUGHTA ASK YOU THAT!
YOU'RE HERE...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED GRAMPA'S BEEN?

TATSUKI!
KOTAROU ACTUALLY FOUND HIM!

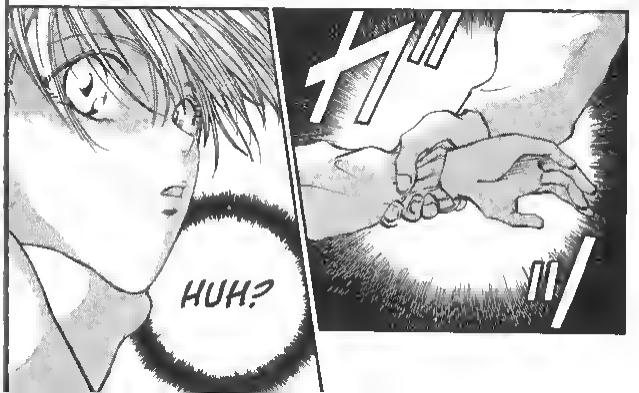
OH MY GOD!

THEN I'LL CALL HIM
HEY! TATSUKI!


HIS AURA'S RED
DID HE REALLY MEAN THAT?!
HE'S ACTUALLY MAD!

HEY!
WHAT THE HELL?

I-I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR STUPID FACE, EITHER!
WAIT, TATSUKI!
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST--

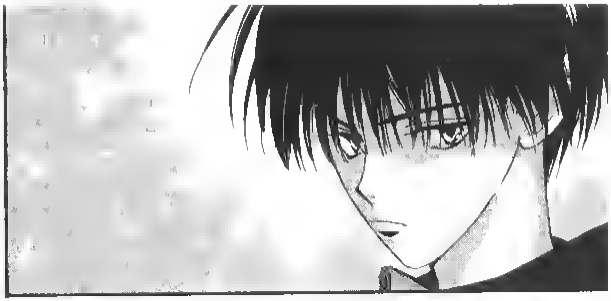

HUH?

I DON'T WANNA SEE YOUR FACE
NOT NOW, NOT EVER.

COME ON, YOU JERK!
ARE YOU GOING STAND THERE, OR HELP ME?!
TATSUKI!
WE EVEN GOT YOU A PRESENT
I DON'T WANT IT!
GIFTS FOR THE LADY!
!!
TATSUKI!
WE HAVEN'T HAD A PHOTO SHOOT IN AWHILE
NO!
GET THAT SHIT AWAY FROM ME!
CAMERA'S READY
WHICH ONE'S YOUR FAVORITE?

YOU'RE SO FIERY, KOTAROU! ♡
SHIT!
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA SAY AFTER "JUST?"
LET ME GO!
STUPID ASS-HOLES!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
HUGH, BABY WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN
HERE? TO PLAY
Hya ha ha!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU--
YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN THE COUNTRY-- GET IN ON THE YOKEL FUN!
YUUTO!
LOOK OUT, KOTA-KOU!
THEY BROUGHT MORE MONKEYS!

ACT 18



GOOD-BYE, TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME
OOOH
WHAT KINDA JERK BOYFRIEND ABANDONS HIS GIRL?
GAH HA HA HA HA!
TATSUKI

* ACT 17 * END

SHUT IT, BEANPOLE
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU LATER
YOU GUYS ARE SICK!
STOP IT!
!

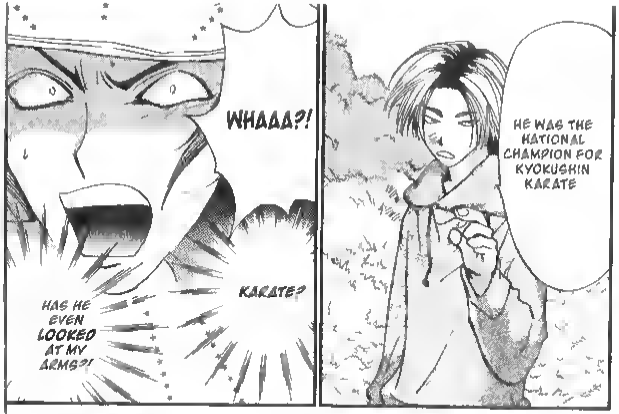
WHY?
HE'S STRESSED OR UPSET, I THINK
ORANGE...
THERE IT IS AGAIN
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH A WEIRD AURA

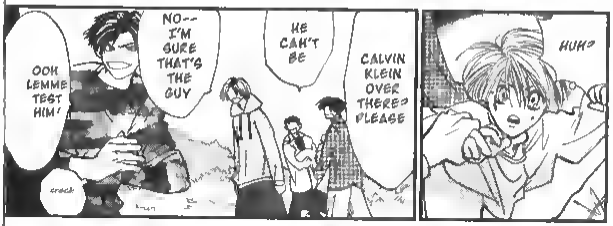
AW, DID WE MAKE YOU CRY?
D-DON'T!

DON'T CRY--WE'LL PLAY WITH YOU!
YOU GOT DUMPED, KITTY-CAT

LET'S PUT HIM IN THIS
THE SUMMER UNIFORM OF CHUOU GIRLS HIGH!
SHUT UP AND LET GO!
Yeah, baby!

TATSUKI!


WHAAA?!
HAS HE EVEN LOOKED AT MY ARMS?!
KARATE?
HE WAS THE NATIONAL CHAMPION FOR KYOKUSHIN KARATE

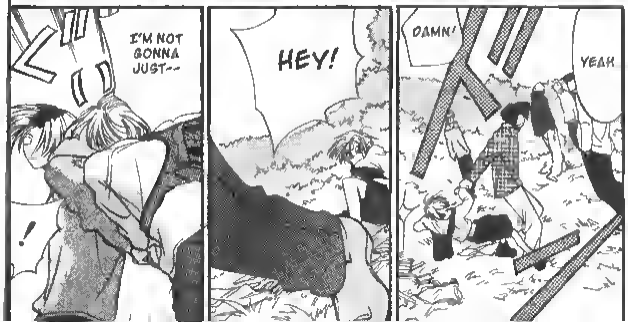

OOH LEMME TEST HIM!
crack
NO-- I'M SURE THAT'S THE GUY
HE CAN'T BE
CALVIN KLEIN OVER THERE? PLEASE
HUH?

HE'S PURPLE
HE'S SCARED!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?!
HEY!
LOOK, I'M NOT

I SAID LET GO!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

ME?
You're new to me, pal!
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THAT LONG-HAIRED GUY SOMEWHERE
I JUST REMEMBERED
WHAT, SOHO?
UH, HEY

HOLY SHIT!
IS HE SERIOUS?
ER MAYBE WE SHOULD GO
HELL, KIO
WAY TO RUIN THE FUN.
I WAS SAVING THE SURPRISE FOR WHEN THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE WINNING.

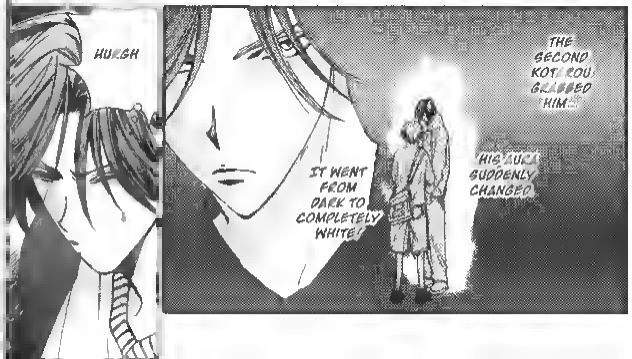

I'M NOT GONNA JUST--
!
HEY!
DAMN!
YEAH

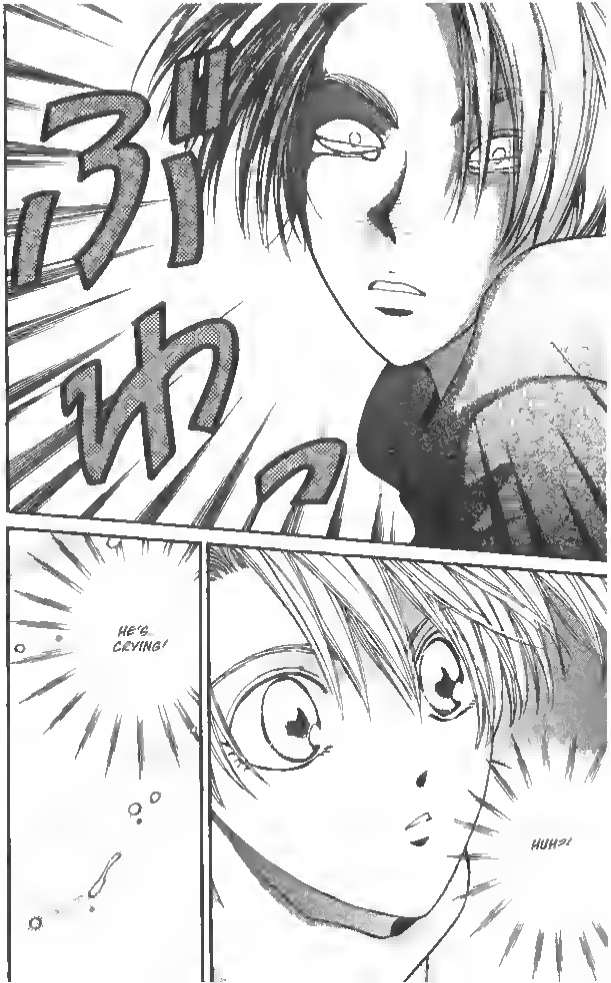
YUUTO!
WAIT A MINUTE!

HEH
HE TOOK IT!
WHA?

ACT 18

!!
UM
HEY
WHY?
TALK ABOUT A TSO!

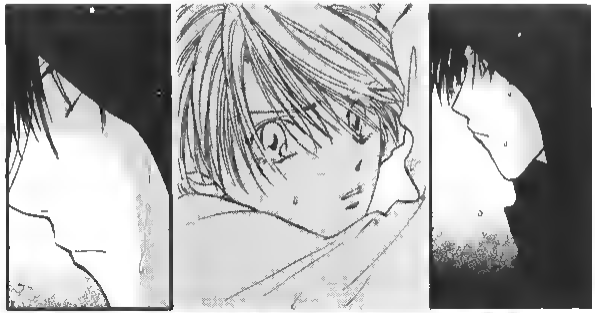

HUEGH
IT WENT FROM DARK TO COMPLETELY WHITE!
THE SECOND KOTAROU GRABBED HIM...
HIS AURA SUDDENLY CHANGED

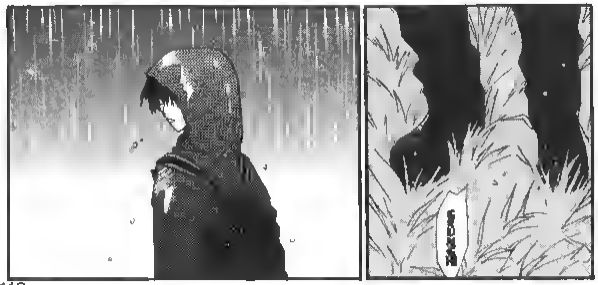

HE'S CRYING!
HUH?!

SO WAS THAT KARATE CRAP JUST TO MAKE THEM LEAVE?
I DON'T THINK HE WAS BIG ON THE WHOLE ASSAULT THING
MAYBE THE OTHER GOONS PRESSURED HIM INTO IT
hmph
UM
HOW'S KOTA-ROU DOING?
IN TOKYO, I MEAN
ASK HIM YOURSELF
WHO KNOWS?

HACK!
BLECH
ARE YOU OKAY?
YUUTO!
UGH, MY POOR INN-ARDS!
DO I LOOK OKAY?
I'M THE VICTIM HERE!
WHY THE HECK IS HE CRYING?
UH, RIGHT!
BUT FORGET ME--GO FOLLOW TATSUKI
GO!
GLANCE

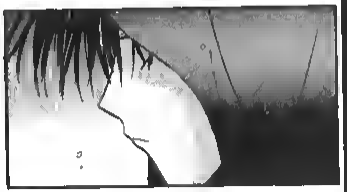
TAK-KUN!



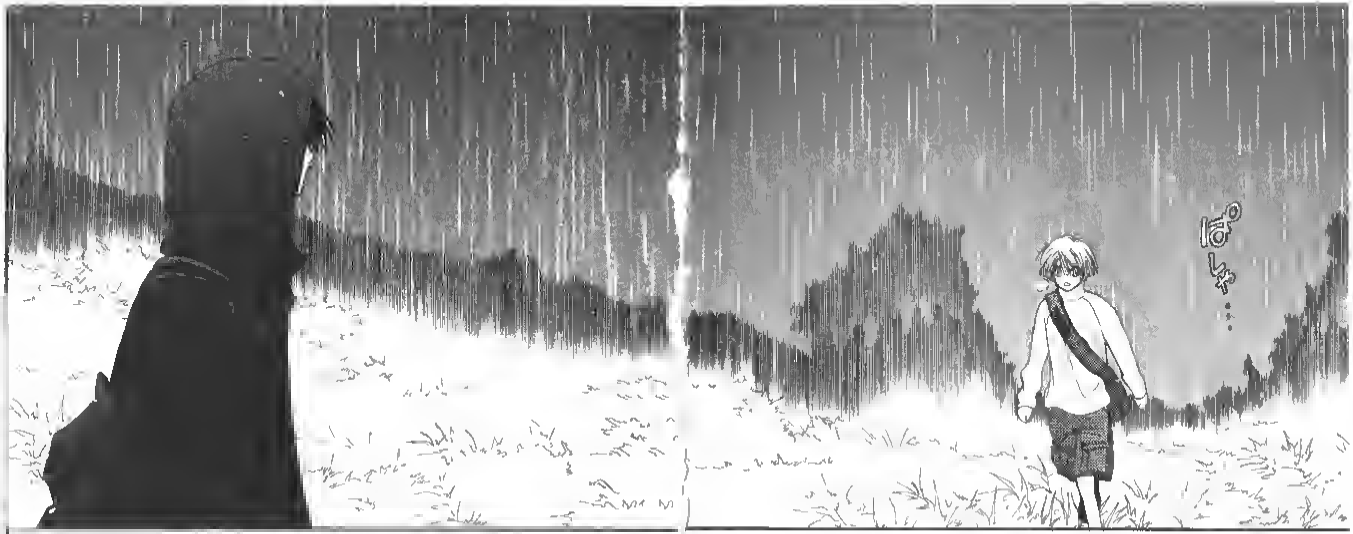

SMACK

DRIP
DRIP

I AM
I'M GETTING RID OF HIM



WHATEVER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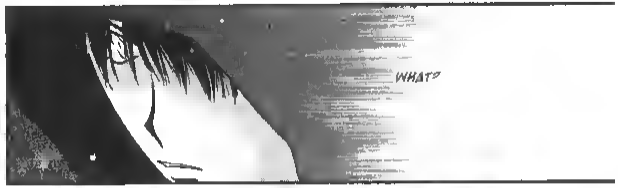
SOMEWHERE I CAN'T IMAGINE...
FIRST OF ALL, IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANNA SEE MY FACE...
GO SOME-WHERE I DON'T KNOW, GENIUS
GO HOME
I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO
SHUT UP

GOD.
WHY ARE YOU SO...
WHY?

I CAN'T LET TAK-KUN RUN AWAY FROM ME JUST BECAUSE HE GREW UP!
EVEN THOUGH YOU SUCK SO MUCH RIGHT NOW...
...YOU STILL USED TO BE MY FRIEND!
WHAT?!
I CAN'T DO IT!

LAST NIGHT
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT YOU AS A LITTLE KID WANDERING AROUND HERE
IT REALLY BUGGED ME, SO I HAD TO FIND YOU


WHAT?

I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND
DOING ALL THAT FOR YOU
BUT
I GAVE UP MY BASKETBALL GAME TO COME HERE!
I'M COMPLETELY BROKE, BUT I STILL TOOK THE BULLET TRAIN
...AND I GOT HARASSED BY GUYS I HOPED WERE DEAD!

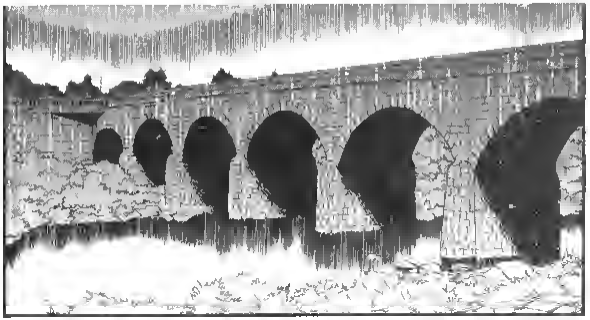
BUT I SURE AS HELL KNOW IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CAME HERE...
COME ON
WE CAN STAY WITH MY PARENTS TONIGHT

COME ON!
TATSU-KI

IMPOSSIBLE
WE CAN'T BE FEELING THE SAME...
HE CAN'T STILL BE STUCK ON THE PAST, TOO

I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS WORRIED
I LIED, BY THE WAY GRAMPA'S NOT WORRIED
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH THAT
HE THINKS YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

I KNOW YOU WOULON'T EVEN IF I ASKED
AND DON'T WORRY--YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY



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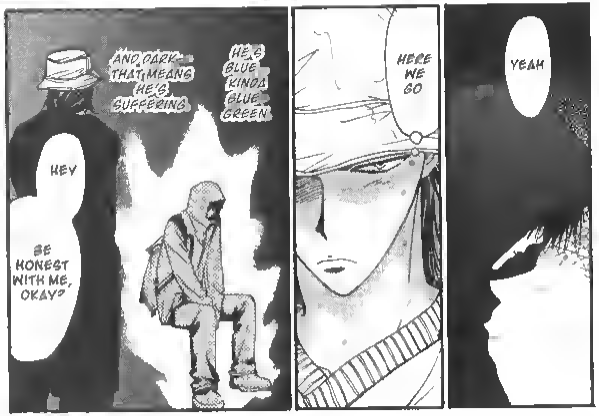
MAYBE I CAN'T GET RID OF HIM
ARE WE INFLUENCING EACH OTHER?

I... THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME.
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO FEEL EITHER.

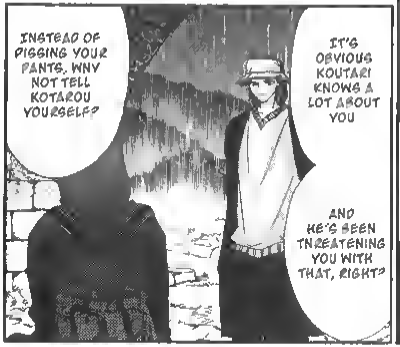
LOOKING TO BECOME A HOBO, BIG GUY?
YO
THEN WHAT DO I...


HEY
BE HONEST WITH ME, OKAY?
AND, DARK... THAT MEANS HE'S, SUFFERING.
HE'S BLUE KINDA BLUE GREEN.
HERE WE GO
YEAH

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?!
THIS IS ALL KOTAROU'S FAULT
I'VE ALWAYS BLAMED KOTAROU
ALWAYS.

AND THEN KOTAROU...
...I'M SURE I'LL TELL HIM EVERYTHING.
THE MINUTE I MENTION MY POWER...

HE'LL TAKE WHATEVER I GIVE
HE'LL ACCEPT ALL THE BLAME
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF

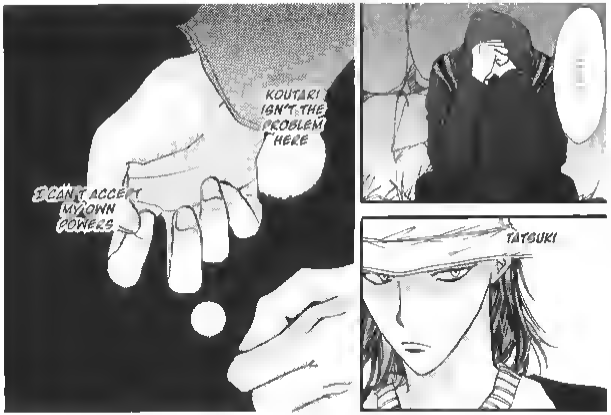

INSTEAD OF PISSING YOUR PANTS, WHY NOT TELL KOTAROU YOURSELF?
IT'S OBVIOUS KOUTAKI KNOWS A LOT ABOUT YOU
AND HE'S BEEN THREATENING YOU WITH THAT, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM?
Y KNOW ABOUT YOUR POWER

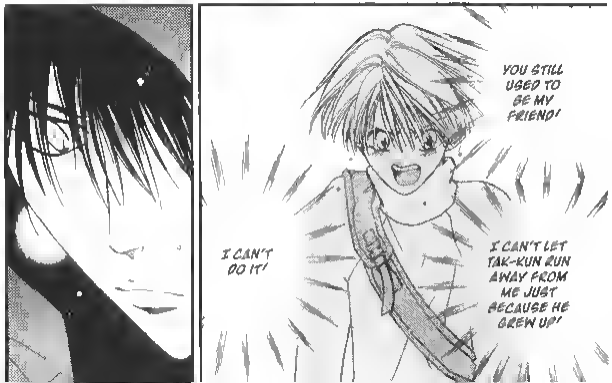
WHATEVER YOU'RE HIDING, YOU KNOW HE'D BE OKAY WITH IT
YOU KNOW HE'D ACCEPT YOU

THAT'S WHY I'M SCARED
I DO KNOW

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T RUN AWAY
IF THIS POWER HAS A MEANING THAT I WANT TO DISCOVER
MAYBE I SHOULD STAY WITH HIM


I CAN'T ACCEPT MY OWN POWERS
KOUTAKI ISN'T THE PROBLEM THERE
TATSUKI

I SEE THE PAST WHEN I TOUCH HIM
IF I ACTUALLY LEARN WHY

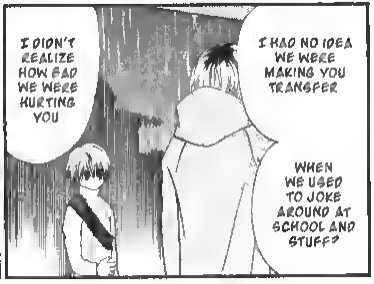

YOU STILL USED TO BE MY FRIEND!
I CAN'T DO IT!
I CAN'T LET TAK-KUN RUN AWAY FROM ME JUST BECAUSE HE GREW UP!

SONO!
!
splash
splash
HEY
I'M SORRY
.....
WH-WHAT NOW?
UH WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WHA?!
DID YOU WANT SOMETHING?

EVEN IF IT HURTS.
I'LL TELL KIM SOMEDAY
BUT FOR NOW
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING
NOT YET
I WON'T, MAN
DID KOTAROU DO THAT?
MAYBE HE'S CHANGED A LITTLE
WAS THAT HONEST SPEECH FROM TATSUKI'S MOUTH?

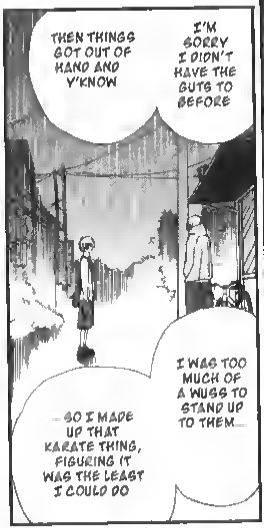
I barely touched him
BUT... WHY?

I'M SORRY WE DROVE YOU TO LEAVE
SO I'M SORRY


I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW BAD WE WERE HURTING YOU
I HAD NO IDEA WE WERE MAKING YOU TRANSFER
WHEN WE USED TO JOKE AROUND AT SCHOOL AND STUFF?

I'M STILL SORRY

WHATEVER, Y'KNOW?
IT'S OVER...
BESIDES, I REALLY LIKE TOKYO


THEN THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND AND Y'KNOW
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO BEFORE
I WAS TOO MUCH OF A WUSS TO STAND UP TO THEM...
...SO I MADE UP THAT KARATE THING, FIGURING IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO

HUH?
HE

IT ISN'T SUDDEN
I SWEAR
I ALWAYS WANTED TO APOLOGIZE IF YOU CAME BACK...

WAIT
THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED CRYING

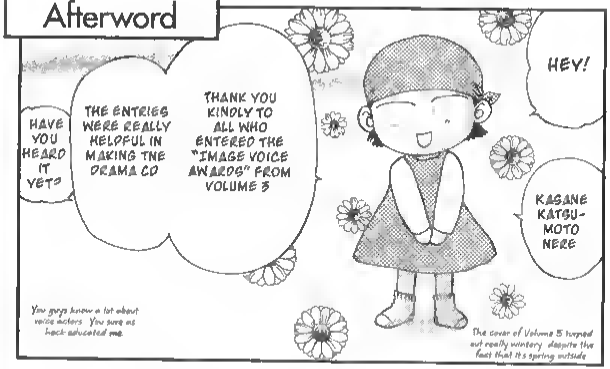
IT'S WEIRD
AFTER YOU GRABBED ME, I COULDN'T DODGE MY FEELINGS ANYMORE
I DUNNO WHY...

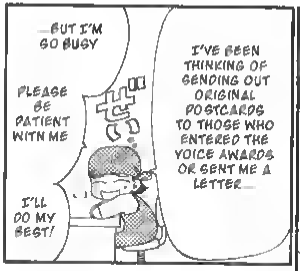
ACT.18

WELL... ALL RIGHT
HUH?
CAN I HAVE A FRIEND OVER?
GOOD HEAVENS
KOTAROU!
YOU'RE SOAKED!
HOW MANY ARE YOU EXPECTING?
BUT THIS IS SUDDEN
JUST ONE
.....
AH
THAT MUST BE HIM
GOOD EVENING!
ぴんぽん
ぴんぽん
ガラガラ

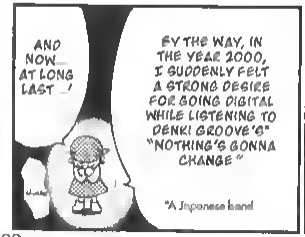
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU
I REALLY WANTED TO SAY THAT
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY TOO
I TOLD TATSUKI
とぼとぼ
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW IF HE...
I'M HOME

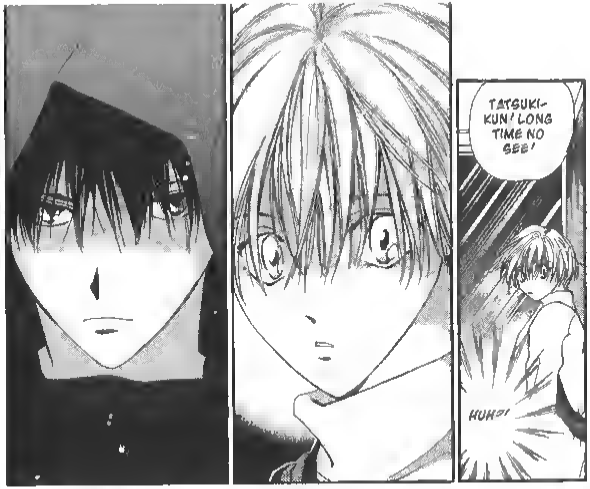
Afterword


HEY!
KASANE KATSU-MOTO NERE
THANK YOU KINDLY TO ALL WHO ENTERED THE "IMAGE VOICE AWARDS" FROM VOLUME 3
THE ENTRIES WERE REALLY HELPFUL IN MAKING THE DRAMA CD
HAVE YOU HEARD IT YET?
You guys know a lot about voice actors. You sure as heck educated me.
The cover of Volume 5 turned out really wintery, despite the fact that it's spring outside.


I'VE BEEN THINKING OF SENDING OUT ORIGINAL POSTCARDS TO THOSE WHO ENTERED THE VOICE AWARDS OR SENT ME A LETTER...
—BUT I'M SO BUSY
PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH ME
I'LL DO MY BEST!

SO, HOW'D YOU ALL LIKE THE "HANDS OFF!" AUDIO DRAMA? I'M THRILLED WITH IT MYSELF
SEND ME FEEDBACK ON IT, YEAH?
Recommended headphones. It's like you're right there!
AND WHO'DA GUESSED THAT CAST!
MANY OF YOU THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LADY DO KOTAROU'S VOICE
Dear God (WHY?)


AND NOW... AT LONG LAST...!
BY THE WAY, IN THE YEAR 2000, I SUDDENLY FELT A STRONG DESIRE FOR GOING DIGITAL WHILE LISTENING TO DENKI GROOVE'S* "NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE"
*A Japanese band


TATSUKI-KUN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HUH?!

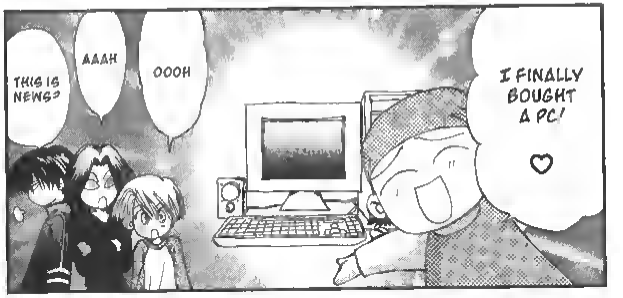
JUST LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN!

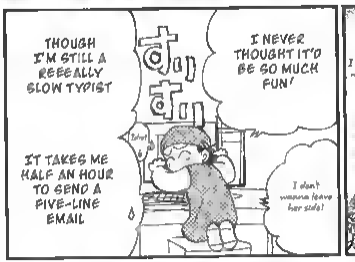
I'M THE REPORTER YOSHINO
Assistant? Chitose Yo
PERHAPS IT'S TIME WE MOVED ON TO THE SPECIAL EVENT
I HAVE SOME READER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR OUR THREE STARS OVER HERE
ME?
FIRST ONE'S FOR YUUTO
SWEET

COOL
GLAD THEY LIKED IT
Ay, was I
WE RECEIVED A LOT OF LETTERS COMPLIMENTING THE STORY OF YOU AND KYOKO FROM ACTS 13 AND 14 READERS WERE HAPPY TO LEARN THERE WAS MORE TO YOU THAN YOUR POOR JOKES AND INSATIABLE LIBIDO

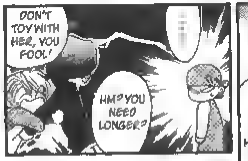
ZZZZ
VILE WOMAN!
IGNORE THEM
NOW, LET'S SEE
Beep
PLEASE IT'S JUST YOUR UNKEMPT MOP
KEEP DREAM-ING
HEY!
Hee!
NAGASE?
I KNEW IT
THEY ALSO SAID THE ACTOR YOU MOST REMIND THEM OF IS NAGASE FROM TOKIO*
WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME ROUGH GOOD LOOKS, DON'T WE?

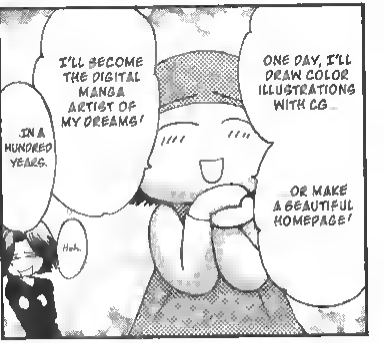
*A J pop band


THIS IS NEWS?
AAAH
OOOH
I FINALLY BOUGHT A PC!


THOUGH I'M STILL A REEEALLY SLOW TYPIST
IT TAKES ME HALF AN HOUR TO SEND A FIVE-LINE EMAIL
tap tap
I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE SO MUCH FUN!
I don't wanna leave her side!

I work with machines.
BECAUSE I'M SUCH AN ANALOG PERSON, I KEPT PUTTING OFF BUYING ONE I WAS AFRAID I'D NEVER USE IT IF I GOT IT
My hobbies are crafts, gardening and antiquing


DON'T TOY WITH HER, YOU FOOL!
HMP! YOU NEED LONGER?


I'LL BECOME THE DIGITAL MANGA ARTIST OF MY DREAMS!
IN A HUNDRED YEARS.
Heh.
ONE DAY, I'LL DRAW COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS WITH CG...
...OR MAKE A BEAUTIFUL HOMEPAGE!

I WAS KIDDING! NO!
NEXT TIME--YUUTO'S HORRIFIC DEATH!

WHY WOULD I?
I'VE GOT KOTAROU
punishment
AND FINALLY TATSUKI
MANY READERS ARE ASKING YOU TO "PLEASE NOT FIND A GIRLFRIEND" WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
I'm serious, myself!
DO YOU EVER THINK YOU MIGHT LIKE A GIRLFRIEND?
.....
AM I RIGHT?
AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
BE GOOD
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE PLEASANT ADVENTURES IN FUTURE VOLUMES
THANKS FOR COMING!
Why must it always end in hate?!
Because that wasn't the least bit funny!
THE FACE!

WHAT?!
ACCORDING TO OUR READERS, YOU'VE BECOME MUCH CUTER AS OF LATE
I'd have to agree
HM?
KOTAROU
DON'T LIE TO SPARE HIS FEELINGS
WE'RE REPORTERS HERE!
UM WELL
A FEW OF THEM SAID "COOLER," I SUPPOSE LIKE THIS ONE?
NOT, LIKE, "COOL," OR "MASCULINE?"
I'M NOT CUTE!
THEY USED THE WORD "CUTE"?
OH MY GOD! KOTAROU!
DON'T DIE ON ME!
DON'T WORRY-- THEY ALSO MENTIONED BOYS LIKE YAMASHITA AND TAKKIE FROM JOHNNYS!*
YUMI ADACHI AND MIHO SUGANO*
Caution: true story
I'VE GOT THE TRUTH FOR YOU, BOYO
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR WHICH ACTORS YOU REMIND THEM OF?
SURE
UH

*"Johnnys" is the biggest male talent agency in Japan

Note: Both are females with enormous eyes.

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Into our cast waltzes another teenage pretty boy...and does he have a chip on his shoulder! Mercurial but charming, Kazuma instantly forms a bond with Kotarou. But when Kazuma begins to play cruel emotional games with Tatsuki, Kotarou notices Tatsuki sinking into depression. What's a friend to do? Kotarou and Tatsuki are cousins and childhood buds, aren't they? Maybe now it's time to prove it!

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